State plans household economic profiling for income certificates

P4

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Fresh clashes erupt near Strait of Hormuz despite ceasefire

US says it expects Iranian response to peace proposal

P12

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LIVE THE BLOCKBUSTER LIFE

LAUNCHING CASAGRAND CASABLANCA PHASE 2

OFF KANAKAPURA ROAD | 5 MINS FROM FORUM MALL

LUXURIOUS 2, 3 & 4 BHK APTS. & 5 BHK FLOOR VILLAS FROM ₹1.2CR - ₹3.37CR*

*T&C APPLY

27 ACRES ROMAN-THEMED COMMUNITY	674 LUXURY HOMES IN PHASE 2	24 ACRES OF OPEN SPACE	2.5 ACRES OF MONUMENTAL CLUBHOUSES	130+ WORLD-CLASS AMENITIES

PHASE I SOLD OUT 785 HAPPY FAMILIES

PRICE BENEFITS

MARKET PRICE, OFF KANAKAPURA RD. ~~₹9000/SFT.~~

CASAGRAND LAUNCH PRICE ~~₹8399/SFT.~~

CASAGRAND EARLY-BIRD PRICE ₹7999/SFT. (FOR FIRST 25 BOOKINGS)

BLOCKBUSTER PRICE ADVANTAGE

TYPE	SIZE	LAUNCH PRICE	EARLY-BIRD PRICE
2 BHK	1410-1661 SFT.	~~₹1.25CR-₹1.5CR*~~	₹1.2CR-₹1.44CR*
3 BHK	1923-2171 SFT.	~~₹1.71CR-₹1.98CR*~~	₹1.64CR-₹1.9CR*
4 BHK	2742 SFT.	~~₹2.46CR*~~	₹2.37CR*
5 BHK FLOOR VILLA	3939 SFT.	~~₹3.51CR*~~	₹3.37CR*

PHASE 2 UNITS - 674 | UNITS SOLD - 183 | AVAILABLE UNITS - 491 | **HANDOVER IN 36 MONTHS**

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SCAN TO WATCH THE PREMIERE OF BLOCKBUSTER LIFE

CASAGRAND building aspirations

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LAUNCHING
CASAGRAND CASABLANCA
PHASE 2

LUXURIOUS 2, 3 & 4 BHK APTS. & 5 BHK FLOOR VILLAS

OFF KANAKAPURA ROAD | 5 MINS FROM FORUM MALL

₹1.2CR* ONWARDS

*T&C APPLY

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★ COMMUNITY ★

- An iconic Roman-themed community of 1400+ homes
- 19 acres of lush landscapes with a tropical forest
- Vehicle-free community with basement parking for safer living
- 7-star styled double-height entrance & lift lobbies
- Resort like ambience for luxury living

★ AMENITIES ★

- Grand 28000 sft. temperature-controlled swimming pools
- 25+ sports courts like badminton, squash, table tennis, basketball & pickleball
- Leisure zones with 5 amphitheatres, forest walkways, koi & lily ponds, themed gardens & more

★ CONVENIENCE ★

- 2 independent entrances for seamless accessibility
- Multi-layer safety & security system
- All-in-one hub: supermarket, cafeteria, clinic, laundry & more
- 100% hassle-free living with assured maintenance services
- Casagrand exclusive community events, festivals & social experiences

★ FLOOR PLAN AND SPECIFICATIONS ★

- Spacious homes for maximum functionality, comfort & privacy
- Huge ceiling height windows for 2x brighter & breezier living
- Vaastu-compliant homes with no space wastage
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- High-end specifications like Italian marble flooring, digital door lock & luxury bath fittings

★ LOCATION ★

- 6 mins signal free access to NICE road
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- Close proximity to schools, colleges, business centers & IT parks

★ LOCATION BENEFITS ★

BANNERGHATTA RD.
10 MINS
RR NAGAR
15 MINS
JP NAGAR
18 MINS
BANASHANKARI
20 MINS
ELECTRONIC CITY
25 MINS
JAYANAGAR
28 MINS
BTM LAYOUT
30 MINS

130+ ACTION PACKED AMENITIES

Indoor Amenities

Entertainment
Multipurpose Hall, AV Room, Cricket Simulator, Video Games Room, Entertainment Lounge, Guest Lounge, Terrace Sky Cinema, Rooftop Café & More

Kids Play Area
Ball Pool, Kids Gym, Rock Climbing, Adventurous Play Area & More

Learning
Library, Arts & Crafts Room, Crechè, Business Centre & More

Gym
Digital Interactive Gym, Boxing Corner, Functional Training & More

Health & Fitness
Yoga/Meditation Zone, Steam Room, Indoor Jacuzzi, Salon & Spa

Indoor Sports
Squash Courts, Badminton Courts, Table Tennis, Foosball, Billiards, Pool Table, Indoor Golf Area, Air Hockey & More

Outdoor Amenities

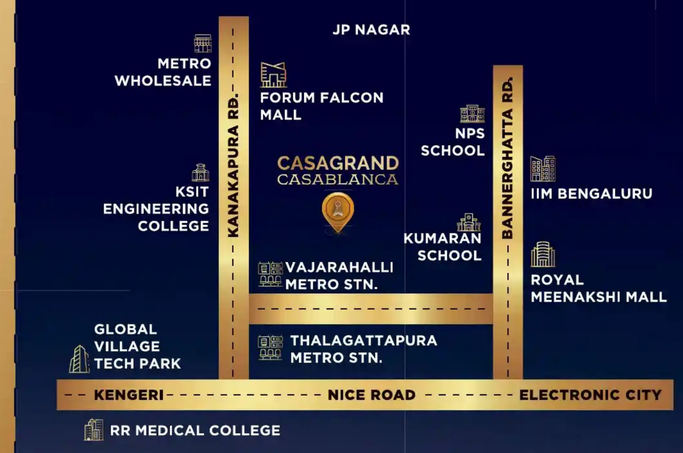
Kids
Rock Climbing Wall, Kids Jungle Gym, Children's Play Area, Trampoline, Skating Rink & More

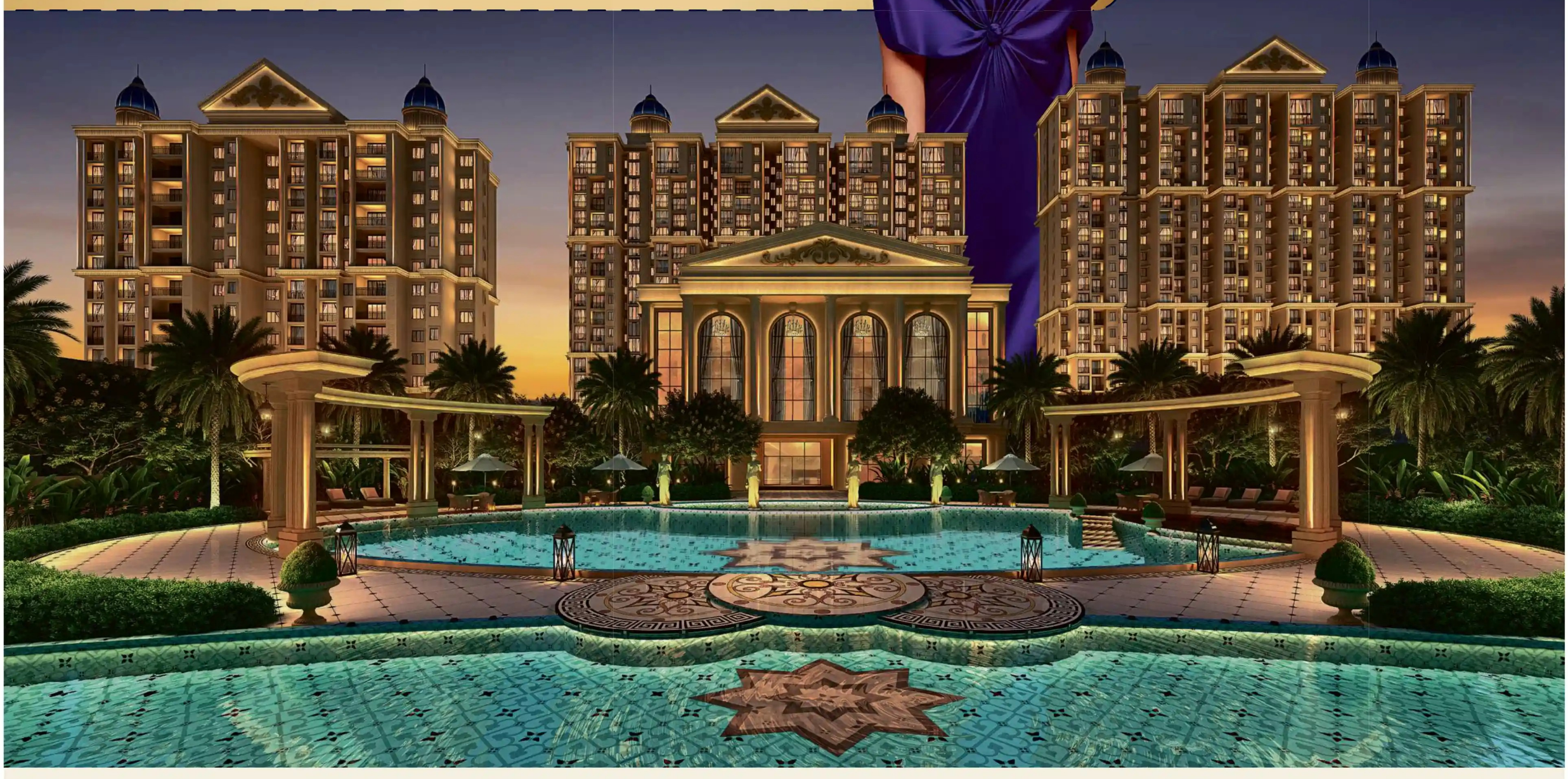
Sports, Fitness & Wellbeing
Yoga Deck, Pickle Ball Court, Basket Ball Court, Multipurpose Sports Court, Cricket Practice Net, Tennis Court, Kabaddi Court & More

Facilities
Car Charging Bay, Laundry Room, Convenio Store, Clinic, Pharmacy, Guest Rooms & More

Features & Entertainment
Amphitheatre, Party Lawn, Pets Park, Jogging & Walking Track, Cycling Track, Hammock Garden, Koi Pond, Fruit Orchard, Maze Garden, Mini Miyawaki Forest, Multipurpose Lawn & More

Swimming Pool Amenities
Adults Pool, Kids Pool, Pool Side Party Lawn, Water Slide, Sunken Seating, Jacuzzi & More





WHY CASAGRAND?

Top 7 Ranked in India	**Top 2** Ranked in South India	**No.1** Ranked in Chennai for last 8 years*	**22+ years** of Trust & Legacy	**7000+** Homes sold in FY '24 – 25	**6 Cities** Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Coimbatore & Dubai
2 months Guaranteed rental	**6 months** Guaranteed resale	**7 years** Warranty	**10 years** Maintenance by us	**2000+** Quality checks	**On-time** Delivery of projects

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SCAN TO EXPERIENCE THE BLOCKBUSTER LIFE

CASAGRAND
building aspirations

*Based on CBRE report 2024

Casagrand Premier Builder Limited is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its equity shares and has filed a draft red herring prospectus ("**DRHP**") with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**SEBI**"). The DRHP is available on the website of our Company, at www.casagrand.co.in, the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the book running lead managers Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors Limited and DAM Capital Advisors Limited at www.motilaloswalgroup.com and www.damcapital.in respectively, and the websites of the stock exchange(s) at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com, respectively. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see "Risk Factors" of the RHP, when available. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision.

The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("U.S. Securities Act") or any other applicable law of the United States and, unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold outside the United States in "offshore transactions" as defined in and in compliance with Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur.

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Minister's remarks on Col Qureshi: SC raps MP govt

P11

Bluru's 2nd airport likely on twin plots on Kankapura Rd

Location said to have fewer airspace restrictions, better connectivity

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

As plans for the city's second airport gain steam, government agencies appear increasingly inclined towards southern Bengaluru, a preference publicly articulated by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

And plans are also being considered to merge the two shortlisted locations on Kanakapura Road — in the south — into one one "perfect land parcel" that fits the airport's requirements with fewer airspace restrictions and better connectivity.

The plans — outlined to *DH* by senior officials from the Infrastructure Development Department (IDD), the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) — come even as the state government recently picked Singapore consultancy Meinhardt EPCM to study the feasibility of all three shortlisted locations.

The locations include Chudahalli and Somanahalli (Kanakapura Road) and villages between Kunigal and Nelamangala near Tumakuru Road in the west.

The Kanakapura Road sites — located adjacent to each other — span 4,800 acres and 5,000 acres each, while the one near Nelamangala covers an area of 5,200 acres.

The Rs 4.96-crore contract will cover four broad tasks: assessment of the AAI's study on site feasibility, assessment of site technical feasibility, development of a strategic framework for site selection, and selection of the preferred site. This also includes a traffic demand assessment and forecasting for all three locations.

Although the feasibility report is five months away, Shivakumar has gone on record multiple times to state that the second airport will come up in South Bengaluru.

Well-placed sources in KIADB and AAI reaffirmed the DyCM's statement.

A KIADB official said the land the government has either acquired or has scope to acquire is more on the Kanakapura side compared to the one near Nelamangala.

"As there is more land available on the Kanakapura side, if the government chooses to look at it cumulatively, it allows for more leeway to perfectly carve out the 4,500-5,000 odd acres to build the proposed airport. Multiple combinations can be chalked out to see what works best," he said.

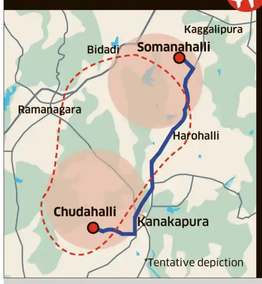
Since the Kanakapura Road locations are adjacent to each other and have overlapping land areas, the feasibility study will evaluate both land parcels individually and jointly.

"An airport in South Bengaluru will offer better connectivity, and there is more demand for it. Some might argue that an airport in Nelamangala could benefit North Karnataka, but that is an unlikely scenario," he added.

When the land near Nelamangala and that near Kanakapura Road are compared, the area identified near Nelamangala has more vegetation.

▸ Airport, Page 6

SOUTHBOUND AIRPORT?



- The two land parcels are adjacent and also overlapping in some areas.
- A feasibility study has been conducted by the BMRCL for Green Line's southern extension — from Silk Institute to Harohalli on Kanakapura Road. If the proposed airport comes up in this locality, a direct metro line to the airport will also be planned.

> The government has already earmarked some positives in the south Bengaluru, which includes the availability of both land and airspace. Hence, there is a push for the airport to come up near Kanakapura Road.
>
> **Airports Authority of India official**

Census of India 2027 — जनगणना से जन कल्याण

Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India
सत्यमेव जयते

OUR CENSUS
OUR DEVELOPMENT

First phase of Census 2027

Houselisting and Housing Census

From April 16th
to May 15th, 2026

In this phase, details of every house in your area will be recorded

What will you be asked ?

Information related to house	Basic information about family	Basic Features	Household Amenities
• House number • Main materials of Floor, Wall and Roof • Use of the House (Residential/Non-residential) • Condition of house	• Number of family members • Name of the head of the family • Home ownership • Number of rooms	• Source of Drinking Water • Electricity/light facility • Availability and type of toilets • Bathroom facilities • Kitchen and gas connection • Cooking fuel	• Radio/Television • Internet/computer • Mobile phone • Two-wheeler/four-wheeler

- This stage lays the foundation for Population Enumeration to be conducted in February 2027
- Share the SE ID with the Enumerators for Validation if Self Enumerated
- In case you forget SE ID, log in to the SE Portal at se.census.gov.in using your registered mobile number. With OTP authentication, you will be able to recover your SE ID
- All your information will remain completely confidential and secure

PLEASE CO-OPERATE
with enumerators during their household visits for this National Exercise

PARTICIPATE IN OUR CENSUS
Say with pride – My count is the strength of the country

TOLL FREE-1855

Every Household Counts

@CensusIndia2027

GBA sets October target for Ejipura flyover

Officials say only 15 spans remain to be erected

The GBA has so far cast 728 of the 762 segments of the Ejipura flyover. PHOTO: GBA

BENGALURU, DHNS

The long-stalled Ejipura-Kendriya Sadan flyover has entered its "final countdown", with officials now targeting completion by October this year following a major breakthrough on the critical St John's Hospital stretch. This is the latest in a series of deadlines set by the authorities for the long-delayed project.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Friday said key structural works that had been stuck for years due to unresolved land issues near St John's Hospital were now progressing on a "war footing", after the hospital agreed in February to allow the use of its land for portal frame construction.

In a statement, the GBA said 728 of the 762 segments had already been cast, while only 15 spans remained to be erected. Piling, ramp construction, road widening and pedestrian pathway works were also under way, alongside the acquisition of nearly 5,999 square metres of land from the hospital and other properties.

While the main carriageway between Ejipura and Kendriya Sadan is expected to be ready by October, the down-ramps at both ends may take a little longer, the contractor in charge of the project said.

The project, originally awarded to Simplex Infrastructures in 2017 for Rs 203.2 crore, saw only 42.8% progress over four and a half years before the contract was terminated in 2022. A fresh work order was later issued to BSCPL Infrastructure in November 2023.

Peenya flyover reopens, easing pressure on service roads

Commuters seek permanent solution to recurring troubles

Traffic on the Peenya elevated flyover was closed for three days for maintenance and load-testing work.

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major relief to thousands of commuters, the Peenya flyover reopened to vehicular traffic on Friday.

The flyover had been closed for 72 hours from May 5 to facilitate maintenance work and final load testing by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The reopening follows a technical evaluation in which officials replaced 1,422 prestressed cables to ensure the long-term structural integrity of the 4.2-km stretch. The testing phase involved placing 32-tonne heavy vehicles on specific spans to monitor the flyover's stability under maximum pressure.

The three-day closure had caused significant bottlenecks on the service roads below. Commuters travelling from Goraguntepalya to the Parle-G factory reported travel times of up to 90 minutes as they had to navigate high-density junctions such as Jalahalli Cross, Dasarahalli and the SRS signal.

"Crossing this 4-km stretch usually takes 10-15 minutes on the flyover. With the closure, we were stuck for over an hour in bumper-to-bumper traffic below. The reopening is good news for those of us heading towards Nelamangala," said a regular commuter.

Subhash Shetty, a local resident, said commuters had a tough time over the last four days and that the lack of vehicle discipline on the roads had made the situation worse.

While the flyover has faced recurring technical issues over the past few years, some commuters, despite the reopening, urged the NHAI to provide a permanent solution rather than temporary fixes, citing the frequent closures that have plagued this vital artery of north Bengaluru since 2021.

Man killed in hit-and-run during morning walk

BENGALURU, DHNS: A Friday morning walk turned fatal for a pedestrian after he was mowed down by a speeding vehicle at the busy Anil Kumble Circle on MG Road in the heart of Bengaluru.

The victim, Srinivas, believed to be in his late 50s, died on the spot, while the driver of the offending vehicle fled the scene.

According to Cubbon Park traffic police, the incident occurred at around 4.30 am. Srinivas was walking along the side of the road when a car, allegedly travelling at high speed, struck him with immense force. The impact was so severe that he sustained fatal injuries and died before medical assistance could reach him.

Anoop Shetty, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic, West), visited the spot later in the day to conduct an inspection. He said a case had been registered under Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for causing death by negligence.

"We are currently reviewing CCTV footage from the junction and nearby commercial establishments to identify the vehicle and the driver," the DCP said.

Cubbon Park-Hosahalli metro to start at 9 am tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: Metro train services between Hosahalli and Cubbon Park stations on the Purple Line will begin two hours late on Sunday due to essential maintenance work.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said it would undertake the work between Majestic and Central College on the Purple Line on Sunday. As a result, no metro services will run between Hosahalli and Cubbon Park from 7 am to 9 am.

Services from all terminals — Silk Institute, Madavara, Challaghatta, Whitefield-Kadugodi, RV Road and Bommasandra — will start at 7 am, in line with Sunday timings.

However, services during the 7 am to 9 am window will operate only on the following stretches: Challaghatta to Vijayanagar, MG Road to Whitefield (Kadugodi), Madavara to Silk Institute, and RV Road to Bommasandra. Normal services across the entire Purple Line will resume at 9 am, BMRCL said.

Bengaluru Business Corridor project moves a step closer

BENGALURU, DHNS: The long-delayed Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), formerly known as the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), moved a step forward on Friday with the opening of technical bids for Package 1 of the project.

Infrastructure firms Shankara Narayana Constructions (SNC) and Vishwa Samudra Engineering have submitted bids for the work, officials said.

The package covers the 19.8-km stretch between Tumakuru Road and Ballari Road and is estimated to cost Rs 3,348.05 crore.

According to the tender floated by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the work will be executed under the Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) model and will include 10 years of operation and maintenance. The completion timeline is 36 months.

The authority issued preliminary notifications for land acquisition in 2007, but the project soon faced stiff opposition from landowners and farmers over acquisition and compensation issues. Multiple writ petitions were subsequently filed before the High Court of Karnataka, delaying implementation for years.

The Congress government revived the project while restructuring the compensation package, offering multiple options for land losers, including Transferable Development Rights (TDR) certificates and developed land in return. However, many farmers remain unhappy.

Officials said the technical evaluation of the bids submitted by SNC and Vishwa Samudra Engineering would be taken up over the next two weeks, while financial bids would be opened after the scrutiny is complete.

Bellandur woman's 3.5-hr airport ride goes viral

BENGALURU, DHNS: A routine 1.5-hour trip to Kempegowda International Airport turned into a 3.5-hour ordeal for Bellandur resident Sakshi Singh, highlighting the city's traffic woes.

Singh, who left Bellandur at 6 pm, reached the terminal only at 9.30 pm. She documented the commute in a video that has since gone viral on Instagram.

Sharing her ordeal on social media, Singh described the journey as a struggle for survival rather than a routine trip.

"I was just praying that I make it in time to drop my baggage. Traffic was at a complete standstill at certain places," Singh said. Ironically, she credited a flight delay for her successful boarding, noting that IndiGo was a saviour by not departing on time.

The incident has triggered a wave of similar complaints from residents in Bellandur and Sarjapur, who frequently battle waterlogging and infrastructure bottlenecks.

With rain forecast in the coming weeks, Singh advised travellers to keep a minimum buffer of 1.5 hours over their usual travel time to navigate the congestion.

The post has since garnered significant engagement, with netizens commenting that reaching the airport often takes longer than the actual flight to many Indian cities.

2 held with 250 kg ganja disguised as poultry feed

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a swift operation, Jigani police intercepted two alleged smugglers and recovered around 250 kg of ganja hidden as poultry feed, officials said.

The street value of the seized contraband is estimated at over Rs 1 crore.

Police arrested Ramyan Yadav, 40, and Sabir Khan, 42, both from Chhattisgarh.

On Thursday evening, a team led by Jigani police inspector Manjunath B S intercepted the van carrying the narcotics near Bannerghatta Road.

The van was headed to Namakkal in Tamil Nadu after loading the narcotics, disguised as poultry feed, from Raigarh in Chhattisgarh.

"The truck, belonging to a travel agency, was booked by a third party to transport agricultural products. The two suspects befriended the van driver, who is also from Chhattisgarh, and claimed they had a delivery in Bengaluru. They then loaded the truck with the narcotics," a police officer told *DH*.

Police suspect the involvement of others and are probing a possible wider drug network.

Bengaluru Saturday, May 9, 2026 Pages 30 Vol 79 No 128 ₹8

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WHACKY VERSE

EC come Didi go

Mamata's brow is pleated
And her words are heated.
Her rule of 15 years
Ends in angry tears—
She's sure she was cheated.

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Fraud involving Anil Ambani's ADAG needs probe: SC

P11

Vijay closer to CM chair after Left support

VCK likely to make formal announcement today

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Confusion prevailed over the formation of the next government in Tamil Nadu on Friday, despite actor-politician Vijay inching closer to achieving the magic number of 118 after the CPM and CPI, with a combined strength of four MLAs, extended outside support to the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led dispensation.

Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), with two MLAs, said it has made a decision on its stand vis-à-vis supporting TVK but will make a formal announcement only on Saturday.

VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan, who held back-to-back meetings with his partymen, paid a "surprise visit" to outgoing chief minister M K Stalin's residence and spoke to him for over an hour. It is believed that the idea of Thirumavalavan as the chief minister with support from DMK and AIADMK was also being discussed, but there was no forward movement on it. After the meeting, VCK announced it will declare its decision on Saturday.

Time was running out as the outgoing assembly's tenure has already ended and a new government has to be in place by May 10, failing which the state might go into a brief spell of President's rule.

TVK chief Vijay being greeted by the CPM leaders in Chennai on Friday. PTI

Kerala CM: Observers submit report

The Congress leadership is hoping to take a final decision on the competing claims of KC Venugopal, Ramesh Chennithala and VD Satheesan at the earliest, as observers who submitted a report on Friday on the views of MLAs regarding their choice and warned that a delay could precipitate trouble in Kerala.

Details on Page 7

Vijay met the Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar for the third time in three days, but the Governor is believed to have insisted on the support of 118 MLAs, while the TVK has submitted letters of support only from 116 legislators.

It is believed that Vijay and his team sought his swearing-in on Saturday, citing it as an auspicious day, but the Governor insisted on the numbers.

Vijay, Page 6

West Bengal CM-designate Suvendu Adhikari (left) with Governor R N Ravi in Kolkata, on Friday. PTI

Suvendu to take oath as WB's 1st BJP CM today

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The BJP's newly elected legislators in West Bengal elected Suvendu Adhikari as the legislature party leader on Friday, setting the stage for him to lead the state's new government.

Suvendu is set to take the oath as the new CM of West Bengal in a ceremony at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Saturday. He will succeed the Trinamool Congress supremo and his former mentor, Mamata Banerjee, whom he defeated in her home constituency, Bhabanipur.

He was unanimously elected as the leader of the BJP's legislature party after his name was put forward for the leadership by the party's former state unit chief, Dilip Ghosh, who had also been perceived as a contender for the CM's office.

▸ Suvendu, Page 6

B'luru civic polls between June 14 & 24: SEC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Outrightly declining the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBAs) request to postpone the civic body elections, the State Election Commission (SEC) on Friday announced that the much-delayed polls would be held anytime between June 14 and 24.

The commission directed the officials to prepare for the polls, stating that the exact date of polling and the election schedule calendar would be announced within a week.

> No scope to defer the elections in view of directions issued by the Supreme Court
> - G S Sangreshi, SEC

Addressing a press conference, State Election Commissioner G S Sangreshi asserted that there was no scope to defer the elections in view of directions issued by the Supreme Court and the need to file a compliance report by June 30.

He added that the commission was bound to fix the election dates as the apex court had so far not considered the state government's request to postpone the polls by three months.

Sangreshi held a meeting with GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao, who is also the district electoral officer and five commissioners of Bengaluru's municipal corporations. "The meeting was called with the sole purpose of fixing the election date," Sangreshi said. GBA and corporation officials flagged concerns over rains, ongoing examinations, the census exercise and the SIR of electoral rolls, besides shortage of manpower and natural calamities, while seeking an extension.

▸ Polls, Page 6

Lions in my backyard

The revival of Asiatic lions is among the major conservation success stories of our time. In 2001, only 327 lions remained in Gujarat. The population has since grown to 891 in the western state. However, shrinking natural spaces and rapid development have pushed the apex predator beyond protected areas and into human settlements. One would expect this to trigger intense human-animal conflict. The reality, though, is more complex.

In Gujarat's Amreli district, lions roam along roads, in fields, at water bodies, near factories and homes, yet locals rarely raise an alarm. Statues and temples honouring lions have also been built.

This coexistence has now come under some strain for both the lions and residents. A *DH* journalist spent two days in the Amreli district, listening to villagers' stories and the roar of lions.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 15

China confirms its support to Pak during Op Sindoor

BEIJING, PTI: China, for the first time, has confirmed that it provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during the four-day conflict with India last year, official media reports said. Chinese officials have played down allegations of support for Pakistan during the conflict. Page 12

LPG crunch threatens to stall over 400 B'luru MSMEs

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Over 400 small factories in the Peenya Industrial Area—Bengaluru's largest industrial area—are close to shutting down due to a shortage of commercial LPG and rising costs.

Since April, government-run gas companies (Indian Oil, HP and BP) have stopped their regular supply. This has forced small business owners to buy gas from the black market. A 19 kg cylinder, retailing at Rs 3,152 after the recent hike of Rs 993, is reportedly being sold for as high as Rs 4,500.

WAR SHOCKS

Factories are only allowed three cylinders per unit per week, even though many need at least 15-20 to keep running, according to the Peenya Industries Association (PIA).

The disruption, fuelled by global geopolitical volatility and the ongoing West Asia conflict, has left precision component manufacturers, fabrication shops and heat-treatment units at the mercy of private suppliers charging predatory rates.

The economic viability of these Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has been upended.

Most of the small workshops in Peenya make parts for big companies.

They are locked into long-term contracts with fixed prices.

▸ LPG crunch, Page 6

BirthRight Fertility
BY RAINBOW HOSPITALS

Rainbow™ Children's Hospital | BirthRight™ BY RAINBOW HOSPITALS
WOMEN CARE | CHILD CARE | FERTILITY

The name that has shaped countless fertility journeys,
now at BirthRight Fertility
Mahadevapura

Welcoming
Dr. Manju Nair
Clinical Director - Fertility Services
& Team

Areas of Expertise:
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- Recurrent Pregnancy Loss
- Poor Ovarian Reserve
- Low AMH
- PCOS & Endometriosis Associated Infertility
- Complex Fertility Preservation
- Personalized IVF Protocol Optimization
- Fertility Sparing Surgeries
- Oncofertility Care
- Advanced Endoscopic Procedures
- Stem Cell Therapy for Ovarian and Endometrial Rejuvenation

Mahadevapura
Mon - Sat
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Lineman dies after falling from electric pole; Bescom officials booked

BENGALURU, DHNS

A Bescom lineman died after accidentally falling from an electricity pole while carrying out maintenance work on Sarjapur Main Road, officials said.

The family of the 29-year-old victim has accused Bescom authorities of negligence, alleging that he was not provided with safety gear.

Appasab Kallappa Ghatagi, a native of Bagalkot, worked as an assistant powerman in Bescom's operations and maintenance (O&M) unit at Dodda Kannalli.

At around 4 pm on May 6, Appasab reportedly lost his balance and fell while working on an electricity pole at Sulikunte Colony. He suffered severe bleeding injuries and was rushed to a private hospital on Sarjapur Road, where he succumbed later that evening.

Aishwarya, his wife, filed a police complaint over the incident, alleging that officials assigned him the work without providing proper safety gear such as a safety belt, helmet and other protective equipment, and without taking precautionary measures.

Based on her complaint, Varthur police have registered a case of causing death by negligence against unnamed Bescom officials and launched an investigation.

The victim's cousin, Sadashiva, told *DH* that four staff members were present at the scene during the incident, and that two linemen were working on the electricity pole when Appasab reportedly lost balance and fell. Bescom engineers visited the hospital after the incident and assured a job to Appasab's wife.

A Bescom spokesperson declined to comment.

Appasab lived with his wife and one-year-old daughter in Kodathi village on Sarjapur Road.

Bowring wall collapse: Lokayukta to submit report next week

BENGALURU, DHNS

An earthmover clears debris along the Bowring Hospital footpath, where a wall collapse killed seven people on April 29.

The Lokayukta is expected to submit its report next week on the Bowring Hospital wall collapse that killed seven people and injured nine others during torrential rain on April 29.

On Friday, more than a week after the tragedy, a police cordon remained in place at the scene, keeping the roughly 100-foot stretch of footpath off-limits.

An earthmover was busy clearing debris left behind by footpath vendors — soiled clothes originally meant for sale, twisted portable folding beds used for hawking products, discarded footwear, torn tarpaulin sheets and stone blocks. Authorities have fully demolished the ill-fated wall and placed numerous sandbags in its place to prevent the land behind it from caving in.

The spot still attracts occasional visitors, who stop by, take a quick look and move on. Elsewhere in the busy market hub, life goes on. Vendors continue to do business on other parts of the footpath, while the busy junction still witnesses chaotic traffic.

The Lokayukta launched an investigation into the incident after registering a suo motu case against the Chief Secretary and other officials concerned. The probe team has already served notices to the officials and has been directed to submit its report on May 16.

"Among other things, the probe team will examine the alleged dereliction of duty by officials, the cause of the collapse, and whether there was negligence in maintaining the structure," a Lokayukta source said.

The probe team comprises a Superintendent of Police as the investigating officer, along with a district judge and the Chief Engineer of the Lokayukta's technical division. They will be assisted by other officials.

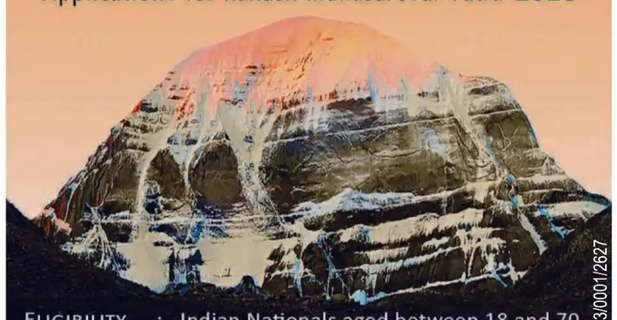
On May 4, the team visited the accident site and gathered preliminary evidence in the presence of GBA officials. Notices were also served to the officials concerned, seeking the necessary information.

The matter has been posted for hearing on May 20.

Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

KAILASH MANASAROVAR YATRA

Ministry of External Affairs invites Applications for Kailash Manasarovar Yatra-2026



ELIGIBILITY : Indian Nationals aged between 18 and 70 years as on 1st January 2026
SELECTION : By Computerised draw, followed by medical tests
REGISTRATION: Only through Online applications
For details visit website: https://kmy.gov.in

Telephone: 011-23088214

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Metro Railway, Kolkata

Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer/Project, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 08.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs. for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Augmentation of TETRA System for Green, Purple & Orange Lines of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value:** ₹ 5,47,41,281; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 10,94,800/-; **Completion Period:** 12 months. The tender can be viewed at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.

Tender Notice No.: S&T/Work_19-2026

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SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(Human Resources Division -II)
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Complex (East Gate-10)
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

F.No. 01-04001(03)/1/2026/262 Date: 30-04-2026

CORRIGENDUM

APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ON DEPUTATION BASIS IN SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA REG EXTENSION IN CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS BY 15 DAYS.

SAI is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, invites application from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Assistant Director on deputation basis. In continuation to the advertisement of even number dated 23-03-2026, the closing date for submission of applications for the post of Assistant **Director is hereby extended by 15 days (i.e up to 15-05-2026) (05.00 PM).** The remaining clauses stand valid.

The application complete in all aspects should reach to the O/o Director (HRD-II), Room No, 210 2nd Floor, Sports Authority of India, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Gate-10), Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 on or before 15-05-2026 or on mail **"recruitment.cell.sai@gov.in".** The details and application form is available on website of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports **www.yas.nic.in** and SAI i.e. **www.sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in.**

Sd/- DEPUTY DIRECTOR (HRD-II)
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

CBC 47103/11/0011/2627

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/I, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following works. Following tenders have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenders will be closed **at 12.00 hrs.** on due date. **e-Tender Notice No.: 102-RNC-DCE-C-SER-02-2026, Date: 07.05.2026. Brief Description of work:** Increase in length of Line no. 1 (CSR=645 m) & Line No. 2 (CSR=676m) at Kita, Office of Dy. CE/Con/Ranchi. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 9.53 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 19,06,900. **Completion Period:** 12 months. **Closing Date:** 08.06.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this item will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-147)**

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ELD-300-WC-25-2025-26-R, Dated : 06.05.2026. E-tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Control Building, 1st Floor, DRM Office, Kaiser Street, Sealdah-700014 against **Tender No. ELD-300-WC-25-2025-26-R**; **Name of the work:** "Provision of insulation paint under low height bridges in Sealdah Division". **Tender value:** ₹ 1,38,29,530.00 **Cost of Tender document** : Nil; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,76,600/-; **Completion period :** 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance. **Date of closing:** 28.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Detail of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in**

SDAH-32/2026-27

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
Eastern Railway Headquarter

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

E-Tender Notice No. N-2025-26-TSK-NIT-37 Dated: 05-05-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **E-Tender No. N-2025-26-TSK-T-37. Brief Description of Item:** Annual maintenance contract of Efftronics make Datalogger with COA system & Software in Tinsukia Division for a period of 02 (Two) years. **Tender Value:** ₹1,86,69,557.72/- **Earnest Money:** ₹3,73,400/-. **Date & time of closing of tender:** At **15.00** hrs. on **29-05-2026 & opening** after **15.00** hrs. on **29-05-2026.** The complete information with tender documents of above e-Tender will be available in **www.ireps.gov.in**

DSTE, Tinsukia
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REPLACEMENT OF OLD VERSION IPS IN TINSUKIA DIVISION

Tender Notice No.: N-2026-27-TSK-NIT-01; **Dated:** 05-05-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Tender No. :** N-2026-27-TSK-T-01; **Brief Description of Item :** Replacement of old version IPS (Ver. 2004) to latest version for reliability improvement in Tinsukia Division. **Tender Value:** ₹24,46,876/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹48,900/-; Date & time of **closing/ opening** of tender at **15:00** hrs. on **29-05-2026.** Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

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Enrolments over **27+ crore**

Wide Eligibility
Available for individuals aged 18-50 with a bank or post office account

Easy Enrolment & Renewal
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Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

Accident Insurance Cover
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Enrolments over **58+ crore**

Inclusive Eligibility
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Low Cost & Easy Renewal
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CBC 15415/13/0003/2627

URBAN GREENING

Sustaining Miyawaki forests in B'luru

Soil suitability, water availability and species selection play a major role in deciding the survival and effectiveness of Miyawaki plantations, say experts

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Miyawaki method is a technique for creating a dense forest in a very short time. Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese botanist, popularised this, inspiring many environmental enthusiasts. Bengaluru's first Miyawaki plantation took place at the Toyota Kirloskar factory in Bidadi, which the company says was carried out in 2009 under the guidance of Akira Miyawaki himself.

Miyawaki forests are now pitched as urban heat-reduction pockets, carbon sinks, biodiversity pockets, flood-mitigation buffers, and pollution barriers near roads.

"In a city like Bengaluru, where every inch of real estate costs a bomb, finding land for actual forests is difficult. A few small high-density green patches can be really useful," says Deokant Payasi, a co-founder of Saytrees, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) active in tree planting and Miyawaki in Bengaluru.

The process involves deep soil preparation, planting 2 to 3 saplings per square metre from 40 to 50 native species, and intensive maintenance for the first three years, after which the forest is left to sustain itself, explains Payasi.

He explains the layered structure as central to the Miyawaki method:

"A forest will have multiple layers — starting from the canopy, then you will have a tree layer, then you will have a subtree layer, then you will have shrubs, and a bit of the grasses. So it's a combination of all of them."

For Bengaluru specifically, he gives examples: peepal and banana for the canopy layer, and pongamia and mahogany as locally found trees. The proportion he follows is roughly 15% canopy, 55–60% trees and sub-trees, and 15–20% shrubs, grasses, and flowering plants.

He also ties the layering directly to biodiversity: each species and layer supports different fauna. "For squirrels, you require a tall tree and a slightly stronger tree so that they can climb. If only shrubs are there, then the squirrel will not be there." The idea is that 40 to 50 different native species, packed into a small area, replicate the layered habitat that a monoculture plantation could never.

On species selection, his practical advice is to either refer to established native species lists published by Bengaluru University or the Forest Department, or simply observe a nearby natural forest and draw from what is already growing there.

"For the first three years, it requires attention and a lot of water, and a gardener has to be there. But when it becomes a living forest, it will thrive on its own," says Payasi.

A view of Miyawaki forest park at Arogya Soudha premises in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Who does Miyawaki in Bengaluru?

Saytrees says it has undertaken at least 50 Miyawaki sites in Bengaluru, including at Bengaluru University, Manyata Tech Park, and a 3.5-acre Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) park in Banashankari 6th Stage. The NGO receives Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding and works on government land allotted through agencies such as the BDA. Payasi estimates that Saytrees has covered about 100 acres under the Miyawaki method.

Apart from partnering with Saytrees, BDA has undertaken Miyawaki plantations in areas including Banashankari Stage and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited (K-RIDE) partnered with BDA for a 7.5-acre greening drive with 195 native species in the 6th Block of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL). There is one more high-density plantation undertaken by Saytrees in this layout, say sources. "Locals are happy with Miyawaki plantations, they are supportive of it, says a BDA forest official.

A Miyawaki plantation done by K-RIDE in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout on the periphery of Bengaluru. PIC COURTESY: K-RIDE

A view of an early-stage Miyawaki plantation at Banashankari 6th stage, Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

K-RIDE officials explain how the NPKL project took off. For the tree felling in Suburban Rail Corridor 4, K-RIDE needed to plant over 20,000 trees and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BDA, which allotted the NPK Layout. They planted 30,000 trees across nine blocks.

"But while surveying the site, we noticed recycled water flowing through a marsh wetland, and degraded but ecologically interesting land. We took forward the idea of Miyawaki plantation here, in conversation with BDA officials," explains a K-RIDE official.

"We focused exclusively on indigenous, rare, endangered and threatened species. We also built rainwater and groundwater recharge structures, diverted a nala to irrigate the plantation, and converted existing water bodies into stone-paved ponds," the official explained.

The funding comes from German Development Bank (KfW) and the European Investment Bank (EIB), with the Ministry of Railways and the Government of Karnataka as stakeholders, the official says.

The Bengaluru West City Corporation's 2026–27 maiden budget explicitly proposed 100 Miyawaki forests to be created in parks, schools and roadside vacant land using native species. The budget also linked this to specially-abled-friendly parks, animal parks, and senior-citizen libraries. No other corporation has any Miyawaki proposal as of now. And officials are unaware of any corporation-funded Miyawaki project being undertaken as of now.

Since no specific body is responsible for Miyawaki forests, there is no data on their actual extent in Bengaluru or on their survival.

What matters in the Miyawaki method

A team of researchers, including Anirban Roy from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), studied the carbon sequestration potential of Miyawaki forests in urban landscapes between 2021 and 2023 across sites in Bengaluru and Palakkad.

The sites studied ranged from two to five years old. Researchers also examined biodiversity and soil health in many Miyawaki plantations, including at a 1,200 sqm site at the Indian Railway Institute of Disaster Management campus off Mysore Road, developed as Miyawaki by Saytrees.

The study found strong carbon sequestration potential in Bengaluru sites. However, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Palakkad site, where grassland had been cleared to create the forest, showed significantly slower carbon sequestration.

Researchers also flagged concerns about biodiversity: dense canopies blocked herbaceous growth, faster-growing trees crowded out slower-growing species, and thick leaf litter prevented natural regeneration. No new species were observed growing naturally within the plots.

"The misconception of considering grasslands as degraded lands and then creating a Miyawaki forest is very unfortunate. That is not going to give us any benefit in the long term," Anirban Roy told *DH*.

He observed that, unlike natural forests, Miyawaki forests are herb-deficient. "A forest without herbs is considered to be a very unhealthy forest in ecological parlance — herbs do a great job in microbial health of the soil, trapping the fine carbon, and they are meant for earthworms and all kinds of microorganisms," he added.

Abi Vanak, Director of the Centre for Policy Design at ATREE, says the Miyawaki method is widely misunderstood in India. "I won't call it a forest. It's a Miyawaki garden or Miyawaki plantation," he says.

A Miyawaki plantation, when executed well in an appropriate setting, can act as a carbon sink. However, "many studies have shown worldwide that natural regeneration makes for more resilient landscapes. Carbon sequestration rates are also higher in natural ecosystems," he replied when asked which type of forest can sink carbon better.

Researchers say Miyawaki plantations leave little room for new species because of intense competition among planted species for water, sunlight and resources.

Note of caution on water

Where should Miyawaki plantation be done? Experts feel it should not be done in naturally open ecosystems like grasslands and scrub, or even in open forest areas. "Because then you're destroying that ecosystem by unnecessarily planting trees there," Vanak explains.

"These trees need a lot of water to grow at a rapid pace. Under no circumstances should it be grown in semi-arid landscapes or in arid landscapes where water is a constraint," he adds.

Since Bengaluru is almost arid or semi-arid, with less than 1000 mm of rainfall per year, water is a major concern, he explains. However, there is a silver lining. "Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has made it mandatory to have sewage treatment plants, so there is a lot of unused treated water, which could be used for these," he opines.

He adds a note of caution. "I have seen many organisations putting money into Miyawaki in open areas, and claiming to have planted thousands of trees in small areas. But most of those will die within a few years if not managed well. Also, it should not be passed off as land restora-station," he says..

"Since predictions project 2026 as a drought year because of El Niño, it would be interesting to see how many of the Miyawaki plantations will survive it," he adds.

Feedback:
pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

METRO

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

CARE Trust: 'Wheels of Opportunity'; Mukta Hall, Chamara Vajra, Palace Grounds; 8 am.

Inauguration of Greater Bengaluru Citizen Forum: B. Veerappa to inaugurate; chaired by B.N. Bacchegowda; organised by Greater Bengaluru Welfare Association; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 11 am.

'Kannada Chaluvali and M. Chidanandamurthy' endowment lecture: lecture by Suryakeerthi; chaired by Byramangala Ramegowda; B.M. Sri Pratishthana, N.R. Colony; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Bharatanatyam performance, book release and discourse: 'Yakshaprashne' discourse by Vyasanakere Prabhanjanacharya; release of 'Inti Nimma Preetiya Ramakrishna' by Mahabalamurthy Kodlekere, Neernalli Ramakrishna and Vasudeva Shanbhag; Bharatanatyam by Soumya Pradeep Hegde and Manasvi Bhandari; K.V.M. Lekkadhikarigala Sangha, Anand Rao Circle; 10 am.

Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha: presentation by Gauri Krishna; guests include Sharada Natarajan, Roopa Hemanth, Lakshmi Rekha Arun, Srividya Srinath and Y.K. Sandhya Sharma; Raman Maharshi Heritage Auditorium, Sanjaynagar; 4 pm.

'Adikavi' solo Talamaddale performance: by Divakar Hegde; Bhagavata by Anantha Hegde Dantalige; maddale by Anantha Padmanabha Phatak; organised by Ragavalli Fine Arts Foundation; Conference Hall, Confluence Club, Good Earth Malhar; 5.30 pm

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@ deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	33.2°C
Minimum	23.3°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	41%
Sunset (May 9)	6:36 pm
Sunrise (May 10)	5:56 am
Moonrise	--:--
Moonset	10:59 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

CM tells co-op dept to work for farmer welfare

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Friday that co-operative societies are crucial in providing required facilities to the rural population.

Inaugurating the Sahakara Samruddhi Soudha, the chief minister said: "The co-operative societies are functioning under the principle of 'one for all and all for one.' The cooperation department must work for the development of farmers. As much as 60% of the people are staying in rural places and are getting adequate facilities through the co-operation department."

Claiming that farmers' conditon has improved after setting up of milk co-operative societies, Siddaramaiah noted that one crore litres of milk was being produced every day.

Two rescued after fire breaks out in fifth-floor cafeteria

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two men had a miraculous escape after an accidental fire broke out in the fifth-floor cafeteria on Coles Road in Fraser Town on Friday evening.

The massive blaze triggered panic in the locality, with visuals of thick smoke raising fears of a major disaster. Police said the fire broke out at around 6.15 pm, following which residents alerted Fire and Emergency Services personnel. Two male staff members working in the cafeteria were trapped on the terrace as thick smoke engulfed the premises, and they were rescued using a crane.

Firefighters managed to bring the fire under control after nearly two-and-a-half hours. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Police said the building housed a gift and fancy store, private companies, and the cafeteria meant for company staff. No other employees were present on the terrace when the incident occurred.

YOGI VEMANA UNIVERSITY
VEMANAPURAM, KADAPA – 516 005, A.P., INDIA

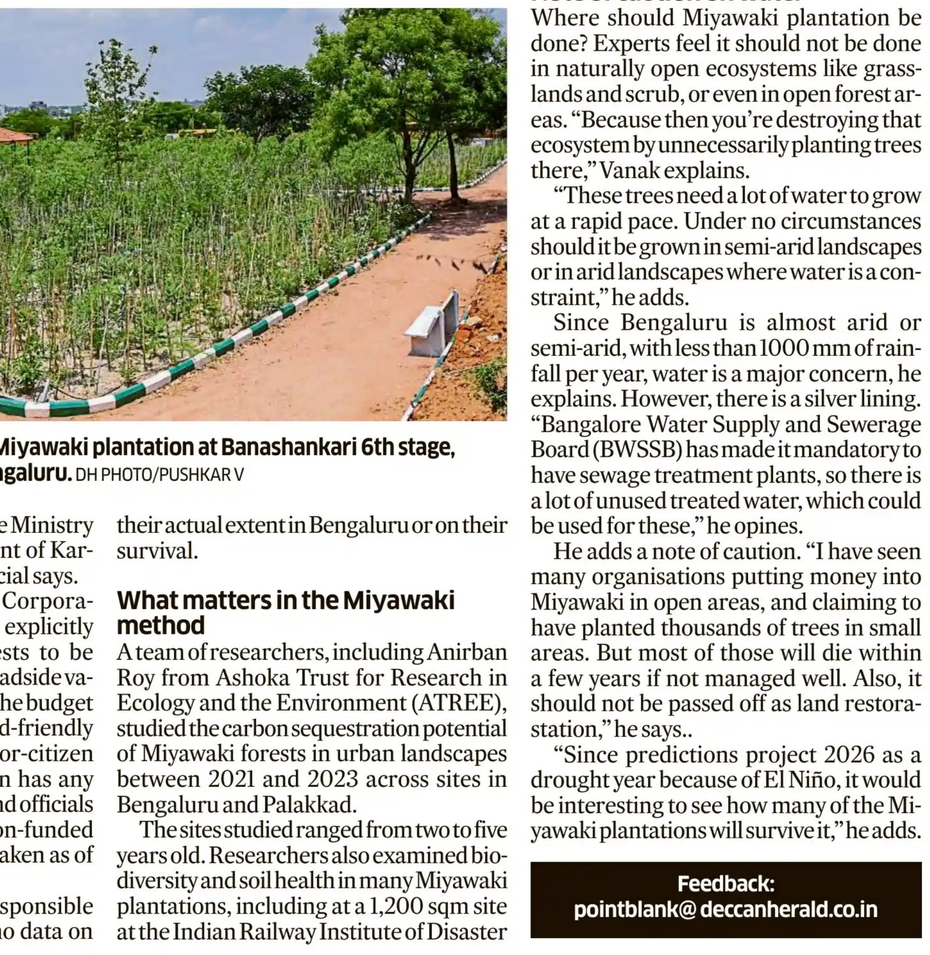
PUBLIC NOTICE
WITHDRAWAL OF 2023 FACULTY RECUITMENT NOTIFICATIONS

Pursuant to the resolution of the Executive Council of Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa and the orders issued by the Government vide G.O.Rt.No.149, HE (UE) Department, dated 11.10.2023, the permission accorded earlier for the filling up of 118 vacant faculty positions in the University is hereby withdrawn as per G.O.Rt.No.59, HE (UE) Department, dated 06.05.2026. Consequently, the faculty recruitment notifications issued in the year 2023 (No.1/YVU/Backlog-SC&ST/2023, dated 30.10.2023; No.2/YVU/Assistant Professor Positions/BC Backlog & Regular/2023, dated 30.10.2023; No.3/YVU/Associate Professor & Academic Non-Vacation Positions/BC Backlog & Regular/2023, dated 30.10.2023; No.4/YVU/Professor & Academic Non-Vacation Positions/2023, dated 30.10.2023) for filling up the said posts stand withdrawn.

Candidates who had applied to the 2023 notifications may visit the University website at **www.yvu.edu.in** for information regarding the refund of the Application fee.

The dates of fresh notifications, and other particulars, will be announced separately.

Sd/- REGISTRAR



Activists urge govt to stop SIR in 'current form'

BENGALURU, DHNS: A group of anti-SIR activists on Friday urged the ruling Congress government in the state to stop the Special Intensive Review (SIR) of the voter list in its "current form" and, even if implemented, to increase the time limit from three to six months for appeals.

In a discussion with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Labour Minister Santosh Lad and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman B R Patil, the activists severely criticised the SIR exercise and its implementation since June 2025.

"The Election Commission of India has lost all credibility in the way SIR has been introduced and implemented since June 2025. It has failed to discharge its duties as per Article 324 of the Constitution. It has been exposed as a politically motivated organisation. Many people are also disappointed with the Supreme Court's position. The Supreme Court has failed to protect the constitutional rights of voters and citizens," the activists charged.

While urging the government to extend the time limit from three to six months if SIR is inevitable, the delegation noted that voters, whose names have been deleted from the list, must be given six months to submit their petitions.

"Karnataka must prepare an independent voter list and take up the issue of revision seriously. The revision of the voters' list must be as per social auditing," they urged.

The activists felt every ward and gram panchayat must have centres to provide relief to the voters. They urged the government to help people without suitable documents.

"Once the draft is prepared, there should be compulsory Gram Panchayat- and ward-level meetings as explained in the Election Commission's manual. In such meetings, the draft list and the changes it introduces should be placed before the people and finalised only after going through it thoroughly."

The delegation included economist and political analyst Parakala Prabhakar, activist Nikhil Dey, former minister B T Lalitha Naik, former Tamil Nadu minister Mano Thangaraj and others.

Govt plans economic profiling of households for income certificates

Move will help govt dispense with need for a mahajar: KBG

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is building a 'comprehensive' economic database of households to automate income certificates and crack down on misuse.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda reviewed this with officials from the e-Governance department on Friday.

The government is planning to integrate tax payments and property ownership with the Kutumba database. Kutumba is the government's social registry on which 1.6 crore households have been issued unique family IDs.

"Over a longer, 10-year period, we're trying to build a comprehensive economic profile of families," Gowda told *DH*. "If income is correctly captured, certificates can be automated, digitally signed and issued. What takes 14-21 days can be down to 3-4 days."

DH recently reported on how hundreds of students from families possessing income certificates - they are to earn under Rs 8 lakh per annum - paid exorbitant fees for management quota seats in professional courses last year. This report was discussed during Gowda's meeting.

"People earning far more than Rs 8 lakh a year are being given benefits. We want a decision support system for rational and fact-based delivery of services. We can automate decision-making, reduce wait times for citizens and ensure that the right people get the right services," Gowda said.

At present, to issue an income certificate, the village administrative officer (VAO) is required to conduct an on-ground verification (mahajar). "But everybody seems to have an annual income of Rs 32,000," Gowda said. "Let's say a person runs a paying guest accommodation. His power bill is Rs 10,000 a month. Yet, he has a certificate to say that his annual income is Rs 32,000!" the minister exclaimed.

Gowda has proposed making Aadhaar-based digital verification (EKYC) mandatory for registration of new vehicles. This is to map families' vehicle ownership. "The system should also be connected to e-Swathu and e-Aasthi (property databases)," he said.

"So, if such an economic profile is available, the government can dispense with the need for a mahajar while issuing income certificates," Gowda said.

KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA
Revenue minister

"People earning far more than Rs 8 lakh a year are being given benefits. We want a decision support system for rational and fact-based delivery of services. We can automate decision-making, reduce wait times for citizens and ensure that the right people get the right services.

Set up Pennar tribunal in 6 months, SC tells Centre

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday granted six months' time to the Union government to comply with its February 2, 2026, judgment to set up an inter-state water tribunal to adjudicate upon the dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in respect of Pennar/Pennaiyar (also called Dakshina Pinakini) river.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta allowed an application filed by the Centre, represented by Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, seeking six months to constitute the tribunal.

She said the government is taking expeditious steps in the matter.

"The statutory and procedural requirements require a reasonable amount of time for completion. The applicant is making all earnest efforts to ensure compliance with the directions of this court at the earliest. The delay in compliance is neither intentional nor deliberate but has occurred due to circumstances beyond its control," the Centre said.

Pennar is an interstate river. Karnataka is the upper riparian and Tamil Nadu is the lower riparian state.

During the hearing, advocate Nishanth Patil, appearing for the Karnataka government, submitted that, actually, it is a very small matter.

Karnataka's Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty and senior advocate Mohan Katarki also represented the state. Tamil Nadu was led by senior advocate V Krishnamurthy.

In its application, the Centre said, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has initiated necessary steps for compliance with the directions of this court, as inter-ministerial consultations have been completed; after incorporating the views and comments of various Ministries, the draft cabinet note has been approved by the Minister of Jal Shakti; and the draft cabinet note has been forwarded to the Cabinet Secretariat for consideration of the Union Cabinet.

It also stated that the remaining formalities to ensure compliance with the directions included after the approval of the Cabinet, the request for nomination for the post of Chairman and Members in the Pennaiyar Dispute Tribunal as per the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, would be sent to the Chief Justice of India.

"After nomination of the Chairman and Members by the Chief Justice of India, the draft notification would be prepared and vetted by the Department of Legal Affairs; thereafter, the notification constituting the Tribunal would be notified," it said.

Tamil Nadu has filed a complaint under Section 3 of the Act of 1956, complaining that various projects taken by Karnataka across the main Pennaiyar river and its tributary Markendeya have prejudicially affected or are likely to affect the interests of the downstream state of Tamil Nadu and its inhabitants.

Karnataka, opposing the contention, submitted that out of the total water of 11.77 tmcft in its catchment, it has planned utilisation of 9.77 tmcft, leaving 2 tmcft and surplus water to Tamil Nadu. It was also submitted that it is sufficient to meet the requirements of Tamil Nadu.

BJP veteran B S Yediyurappa is taken out in a procession a day ahead of Abhimanotsava, an event to mark his 50 years of political journey scheduled Saturday, in Chitradurga on Friday. PTI PHOTO

Chitradurga turns saffron for Yediyurappa's 'Abhimanotsava'

CHITRADURGA, DHNS

Most streets in the fort town were decorated with saffron buntings, banners and posters for the Abhimanotsava of B S Yediyurappa, an event to mark the 50th year of BJP veteran's political journey scheduled here Saturday.

Four stages, including a massive main stage, were set up on a sprawling ground beside Madara Channayya Gurupeeth. Necessary security arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of the event, in which more than 10 lakh people from across the state are expected. Hundreds of pontiffs and seers from various mutts across the state will also attend the event, the party sources said.

Food and drinking water arrangements have been made and parking zones have been set up at 10 places across the city. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the event. The who's who of state BJP will take part in the programme.

"Fifty successful years of B S Yediyurappa in public service. Let us come together to express our love, respect, and admiration for the tireless, visionary leader of the people and farmers, the benevolent Yediyurappa," state BJP President B Y Vijayendra posted on 'X'.

"In the divine presence of the state's senior saints and swamijis, the event will be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, with the participation of Union Ministers, and all leaders and stalwarts of the state," he added.

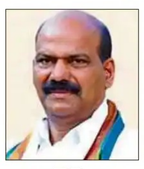
On Friday, Yediyurappa was accorded a traditional welcome into the city. He was taken out in a colourful procession.

"People are organising this event with a lot of affection and love; I thank all those working for this event," Yediyurappa told reporters in Davangere ahead of his 'Pura Pravesha'.

Two books on Yediyurappa's life and struggles - 'Kendavare-Kamala Aralida Kathe' and 'Sadana Shikari-Yediyurappanavara Gudigina Nudigalu' will be released at the event.

Sringeri vote recount: SC to examine Rajegowda's plea

Says will consider request for an expedited hearing



TD Rajegowda

DN Jeevaraj

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to consider a plea filed by Karnataka Congress leader T D Rajegowda, questioning the Karnataka High Court's order for vote recount, which caused his ouster as the MLA of Sringeri constituency.

In his petition, Gowda challenged the April 6 order of the Karnataka High Court directing reverification and recounting of postal ballots cast in the 2023 Assembly election.

Senior advocate Devadutt Kamat, appearing for Gowda, mentioned the matter before a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and urged the court to list the matter urgently on May 11.

Kamat submitted that the high court erred in ordering the recount exercise, which ultimately resulted in BJP leader D N Jeevaraj being declared as elected MLA for Sringeri.

The bench said it will consider the request for an expedited hearing. "Usually, we order stay in such matters... we will examine your matter though," the bench said.

In 2023 Karnataka Assembly election, Rajegowda had originally defeated Jeevaraj by a slender margin of 201 votes.

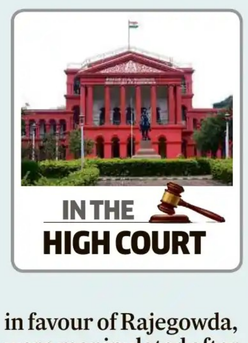
However, the high court, acting on an election petition filed by Jeevaraj, directed reverification and recounting of postal ballots on April 6. The recount exercise dramatically altered the result.

Jeevaraj's postal ballot tally reduced marginally from 692 to 690 votes and Gowda's tally fell sharply from 569 to 314 votes, resulting in a net reduction of 255 votes in his favour.

The returning officer declared Jeevaraj elected under Section 66 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

This resulted in unseating of the sitting Congress MLA almost three years after he entered the Assembly.

HC stays FIR against former C'magaluru DC



The Karnataka High Court has stayed the proceedings in the FIR registered against K N Ramesh, former Deputy Commissioner of Chikkamagaluru district and Vedamurthy, former returning officer, in respect of alleged irregularities during the counting of postal ballots at the Sringeri assembly constituency in 2023, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Vacation judge Justice V Srishananda also extended the interim relief granted to D M Jeevaraj, BJP MLA in the case.

On May 3, after recounting postal ballots, D N Jeevaraja was declared MLA from Sringeri constituency. Soon after this, a complaint was filed by Sudhir Kumar Murolli, poll counting agent for Congress candidate T D Rajegowda that certain postal ballots, particularly the ones with votes in favour of Rajegowda, were manipulated after the counting in 2023. The FIR, registered by the Chikkamagaluru police, was for offences under IPC sections 143, 465, 468, 471, 120B, 149 and Section 136 of the Representation of People Act against Jeevaraja, K N Ramesh and Vedamurthy.

During the hearing, time was sought to file a statement of objections to the petitions filed challenging the FIR. The vacation judge granted time and adjourned the hearing to June 3, 2026.

D T Srinivas named Cong's OBC wing chief

BENGALURU, DHNS: Congress MLC D T Srinivas was appointed as chairperson of the party's OBC department on Friday. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge approved Srinivas' appointment, according to a press release. Srinivas is an MLC representing the Karnataka South East Teachers' constituency.

D T Srinivas

COMEDK UG entrance test today

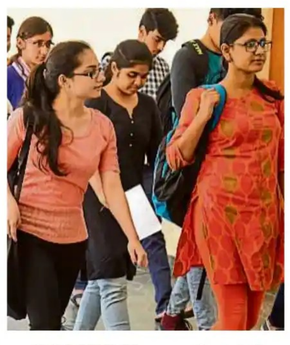
1.30 lakh candidates to appear for the tests

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 1,30,620 candidates from across India have registered for the Consortium of Medical Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK) Undergraduate Entrance Test (UGET), scheduled to be held on Saturday.

Of the total 1.30 lakh candidates, 43,069 candidates are from Karnataka. The entrance test is for admissions to undergraduate engineering courses at over 150 private engineering colleges across Karnataka and select PAN-India Member Universities.

COMEDK-UGET, a computer-based examination, will be held across 28 states/Union Territories, 171 cities and 303 test centres in two sessions. The first session will be held between 9 am and 12 noon. The second session will be between 2 pm and 5 pm.



COMEDK authorities have advised the candidates to reach the examination centres as per the reporting time mentioned in the Test Admission Ticket. They have to carry the admission ticket copy along with the recent two passport-size colour photographs.

Regarding the dress code, COMEDK has clarified that "Since this is an all-India level examination, the dress code for the COMEDK 2026 exam will be in line with what is advocated by the respective state governments."

Candidates are allowed to carry the following to the exam hall: Test Admit Ticket (TAT), two passport-size photos, unique ID proof as declared in the application, a transparent water bottle and a pencil.

HC directs continuation of hormone replacement therapy on two transgenders

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the doctors of a private hospital in Bengaluru to continue with hormone replacement therapy (HRT) upon two transgenders as per the existing medical protocol.

The petitioners challenged the validity of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026, and claimed that despite being midway through treatment, the attending doctors are unwilling to continue the prescribed course of therapy.

"The concerned doctors and medical authorities shall facilitate continuation of such treatment without interruption. The continuation of treatment shall, however, be subject to the outcome of the present writ petition and any orders that may be passed by the Supreme Court, including in any transfer proceedings initiated by the Union of India," Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum stated in the interim order passed on Thursday.

The petitioners submitted that they are transgender persons identifying as women and are aggrieved by the consequences flowing from the amended definition of "transgender person" under Section 2(k) of the 2026 Amendment Act. The petitioners claimed that they have been undergoing hormone replacement therapy (HRT) in a hospital since November 11, 2023, and have also been issued Transgender Identity Cards.

They contend that denial of treatment midway, infringes their fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, 16, 19, and 21 of the Constitution of India. They also relied on an interim order passed by the Kerala High Court in an analogous matter, where similarly placed persons were permitted to continue the therapy and appropriate directions were issued to facilitate uninterrupted treatment.

The Additional Solicitor General, appearing for the Union government, submitted that no material is placed on record to demonstrate that the authorities have initiated or proposed coercive action restraining such treatment. It was further submitted that the issue relating to the validity of the amendment is presently sub judice and before the Supreme Court. The Union government is contemplating filing an application seeking transfer of all similar petitions pending before various high courts, the court was informed.

Justice Magadum noted that the medical records produced by the petitioners, prima facie, indicate that both have been undergoing the therapy since November 11, 2023.

"At this stage, it cannot be disputed that abrupt discontinuation of such ongoing medical treatment may have adverse and detrimental consequences on their physical and mental well-being. It is also not in dispute that the issues raised in the present petition, including the challenge to the amended statutory provision, are engaging the attention of the Supreme Court and are likely to be authoritatively settled. In the facts and circumstances of the case, this court is of the considered view that, pending adjudication of the larger issues, limited interim protection is required to be extended to the petitioners to ensure that ongoing medical treatment is not disrupted," the court said.

DH
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In Loving Memory of

My Respected Father-in-law
Sri. B. Bhashyakaralu Naidu (B.B. Naidu)

Your pious soul & moral force & the Rich legacy of values left behind, by you will continues to guide me in all my endeavours.

By your Affectionate Daughter-in-law
Smt. Meera Srinivasulu Naidu
Wife of Sri. R. Srinivasulu Naidu
No. 2 'SRI VILAS' 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore-9

Row over Kannada exclusion from railway exams

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) has slammed the South Western Railway (SWR) for announcing that three Limited Departmental Competitive Examinations (LDCE) will be conducted solely in English and Hindi, omitting Kannada.

KRV president T A Narayana Gowda called it "a linguistic betrayal and an assault on Kannadiga identity".

In a notification, the Hubballi division stated that the LDCE exams would cover 39 Office Superintendents (Level-6), 25 Senior Clerks (Level-5), and 9 Intermediate Apprentice Mechanics posts.

Gowda said many rural Kannadiga employees, educated in Kannada medium, face barriers in Hindi-English examinations, stifling their promotions and turning them into "second-class citizens" in their own state.

"Kannada is Karnataka's official language, yet the railways ignore it here," Gowda said in a post on social media platform X.

He demanded a three-language (Kannada-English-Hindi) system and warned of a shutdown of railways across Karnataka.

SWR officials said that at present, for the next examination proposed to be scheduled, the stage is that of the collection of information by the Railway Recruitment Cell (RRC) from all concerned units regarding the selections to be conducted and the expected number of candidates appearing for each selection.

The Exam Conducting Agency (ECA) has visited the shortlisted premises proposed as examination venues. After receiving inputs from all units and consulting with the ECA, the RRC will finalise and communicate the examination schedule to all concerned.

Further information regarding the exact dates is awaited from RRC, Hubballi.

Conduct railway dept exams in Kannada, Nikhil urges Somanna

BENGALURU, DHNS: JD(S) youth leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy has appealed to Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna to conduct the South Western Railways exams in Kannada.

In a letter to the minister, Nikhil mentioned that the Limited Departmental Competitive Examinations conducted by the South Western Railways to get promotion for the post of Goods Train Manager, scheduled this month, is only in Hindi and English. "Allowing only English and Hindi has caused anxiety among local employees," Nikhil stated.

He further stated that the notification issued by the department, in August 2024, clarified that there was a provision to conduct exams in local/regional languages. "Despite having its head office in Karnataka, the South Western Railways ignoring Kannada is not acceptable," he added.

Nikhil has urged the minister to issue a permanent Government Order on conducting such exams even in Kannada in the future.

Health emergency operations centre to assist in pandemic-like situations

Centre will function as centralised command facility during crisis

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Health and Family Welfare Department has established a health emergency operations centre (HEOC) to strengthen national health security and resilience against future pandemic-like situations, improve coordination between central, state and district-level health systems and ensure compliance with International Health Regulations (IHR 2005).

The centre also aims to proactively manage disasters and outbreaks, enable real-time surveillance, data-driven decision-making and rapid response.

It was inaugurated by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao at Arogya Soudha in the city.

The centre is equipped with a central operations room, a high-resolution video wall for real-time monitoring, video conferencing and communication systems, data servers and networking infrastructure, an emergency call handling system, and surveillance and access control systems.

The facility will function in four different modes: a) Watch mode for continuous surveillance and data analysis; b) Alert mode for early warning and preparedness; c) Response mode for full or partial activation during emergencies; and d) Post-event recovery mode for analysis and restoration.

The implementation and operation of the HEOC involve collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including national, state and district disaster management authorities, the police force, and the revenue, fire and emergency services, women and child development, and food and civil supplies departments.

The establishment of such a centre follows difficulties that people were forced to face during the Covid pandemic. It was established under the guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and following directives from the central government. Every state and union territory is ordered to establish such centres for smooth functioning during a crisis.

WHAT DOES HEOC DO?

- Centralised command and control structure
- Real-time data collection, analysis, and dissemination
- Integrated communication systems (audio, video, digital platforms)
- Rapid deployment of resources and response teams
- Continuous monitoring (24x7 watch mode capability)
- Structured Incident Response System (IRS) for emergencies

State to procure sunflower seeds at Rs 7,721 MSP

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister for Agricultural Marketing Shivanand Patil has issued an order to procure sunflower seeds at a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 7,721 per quintal for the 2025-26 rabi season.

The procurement drive will cover 11 districts: Bagalkot, Belagavi, Ballari, Vijayapura, Chamarajanagar, Chitradurga, Gadag, Kalaburagi, Vijayanagara, Raichur and Dharwad.

The directive was issued on Friday, aligning with the union government's support price guidelines. It is aimed at preventing distress sales as market prices fluctuate.

The order also emphasised the use of technical and scientific facilities at rural warehouses to ensure that the quality of seeds is maintained during the 60-day purchase window.

Patil cautioned the district task force committees to remain vigilant against middlemen. "The procurement centres must not be misused by traders or agencies in the name of farmers. We need a transparent process where daily progress reports are submitted to the state government and the Karnataka State Agricultural Marketing Board," he stated.

Key highlights

Agencies

NAFED and NCCF will act as central procurement agencies, while the Karnataka Cooperative Oilseeds Growers' Federation will be the state nodal agency.

Timeline

A 50-day window has been set for farmer registration, with the actual procurement process scheduled to span 60 days.

Infrastructure

Deputy commissioners, heading the local task forces, have been directed to set up centres at warehouses equipped with scientific storage facilities to help rural farmers.

Lok Bhavan asks Higher Education Dept to defreeze KSOU's accounts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Lok Bhavan has once again directed the state government to defreeze the accounts of the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU). The varsity's accounts were frozen in March after it hosted 'Ekatma Manav Darshan-Bharat's Worldview', to mark 60 years of a series of lectures delivered by Deendayal Upadhyaya.

Congress legislators had voiced their opposition to the KSOU allowing the event to be held on its premises. The issue was also raised on the floor of the Legislative Council, following which the Department of Higher Education issued a show-cause notice to KSOU Vice-Chancellor Sharanappa V Halse. Deeming the VC's reply to the notice 'unsatisfactory', the department directed the banks concerned to freeze the varsity's accounts.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot had himself written to Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar, directing the latter to defreeze the varsity's accounts. Now, the Governor's special secretary has communicated with the Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department, calling on the latter to withdraw the order issued to the general manager of State Bank of India to freeze KSOU's accounts. The Principal Secretary has additionally been asked to submit a report detailing the action taken in compliance with the Governor's directions.

DH DECCAN HERALD

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
NOTIFICATION

Online Technical Proposals are invited from eligible Firms / Companies / LLPs / Partnership Firms / Co-operative Societies for procurement and supply of **INDIRA AHARA KITS** comprising Tur Dal, Sunflower Oil, Sugar, Iodized Salt and Kit Bags under **Anna Bhagya Scheme** through **e-Auction** on **NCDEX e Markets Ltd. (NeML) Platform.**

Estimated Value	Rs. 3135 Crores (Approx.)
Contract Period	6 Months
No. of Divisions	5 Divisions
Mode	e-Auction through NeML

IMPORTANT DATES

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date & Time
1.	Publication of Notification	07-05-2026
2.	Pre-Bid Meeting	11-05-2026 at 11:30 AM
3.	Last Date for Uploading Technical Proposals	15-05-2026 up to 5:30 PM
4.	Last Date for Submission of Samples with NABL Test Reports	16-05-2026 up to 5:00 PM
5.	Opening of Technical Proposals	18-05-2026 after 10:00 AM
6.	Publishing of Eligible Bidders list on NeML Portal	25-05-2026
7.	Last Date for Submission of any Grievances about the Eligible Bidders list	29-05-2026 up to 5:30 PM
8.	Tentative Date & Time of e-Auction	03-06-2026, 11:00 AM onwards

For detailed document, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, terms & conditions and other information, bidders are advised to visit: www.neml.in

ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION
Office of The Commissioner, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, #8, Cunningham Road, 5th Floor, Sahakara Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 052.
080-22262187
askus@neml.in / indiraaharakit@gmail.com

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(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. B35/SEE(PM)/22415/2021-22/472 Dated: 07.05.2026

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk in Interview scheduled on 11.05.2026 through notification No. B35/SEEPM/22415/2021-22/448 dated 28.04.2026 for engaging retired Tahsildar and retired Revenue Inspector on contract basis to KPTCL is re-scheduled to 13.05.2026. Further the other details mentioned in the earlier notification remain un-altered.

Interested persons are requested to attend Walk-in-Interview with the copies of (i) Aadhar Card (age proof) (Age limit: 65 years) (ii) retirement certificate.

Walk-in- Interview schedule

Date (Re-scheduled)	Venue	Time
13.05.2026	11th Floor, Board Room, Corporate Office, Indhana Bhavana, Bengaluru.	10.00 am To 3.00pm

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Electy.,)
Project Monitoring & MIS, KPTCL, Corporate Office,
Indhana Bhavana, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru.

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
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MEDICAL EDUCATION CELL, ESIC, HEADQUARTERS
पंचदीप भवन : सी. आई. जी. मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110002
PANCHDEEP BHAWAN: C.I.G. MARG, NEW DELHI-02
ई-मेल: dmc-dl@esic.nic.in; mecell.hq@esic.nic.in

Date: 30.04.2026

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR WARD OF INSURED PERSONS IN
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This Admission Notice is for admission of 'Wards of Insured Persons' (IP's) in UG course (MBBS/BDS/B.Sc Nursing) in ESIC Medical/Dental/Nursing Colleges & some other government Medical Colleges under ESI scheme who meet the laid down eligibility criteria and have applied for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (UG)-2026 [NEET (UG)] for academic session 2026-27 as per admission policy and procedure approved by the Government of India/ESI Corporation. Details are available on the admission link on the ESIC website **esic.gov.in** or **scan the QR code.**

Medical Education Cell
ESIC Hqrs.

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KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LTD.
(Formerly Karnataka Land Army Corporation Limited)
No.1106, 10th Main Road, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560040

No.EE-4/KRIDL/TENDER/2026-27/214 Dated:08.05.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Managing Director, KRIDL, Executive Engineer, BBMP Division-4, invites e-tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) for the works with Tender Reference No.(KRIDL/2025- 26/RD/WORK_INDENT 44/Call-2) under two cover system with Approximate Project cost for each works amounting to Rs.995.00 Lakhs and EMD Amount of Rs.13.50 Lakhs. Interested Contractors/Firms who wish to participate in the tender can view, download and apply only through KPPP https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The schedule of specified Tenders are as under;

Tender Publish Date	08.05.2026
Last date and time for online queries	11.05.2026, 17:00
Date and time for Pre-Bid Meeting	12.05.2026, 11:30
Last date and time for receipt of tender	15.05.2026, 17:00
Date of Opening of Technical Bid & Time	18.05.2026, 11:30
Date of Opening of Financial Bid & Time	26.05.2026, 11:30

For more information,visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-4
KRIDL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/574/CCL/2026-27

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(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
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e-mail:**gmmkshdcl@gmail.com**
Website: **www.cauverycrafts.net**

FILE No.KSHDCL/MKTG/E-T/137/2026-27 Date:08.05.2026
TENDER REFERENCE NO. KSHDCL/2026-27/IND0017

SHORT-TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd., (KSHDCL) invites short-term e-tender under two cover tender procedures from eligible tenderers **for manufacture and supply of 92.5 sterling Silver Medals Gold Plated with gandaberunda along with necessary accessories on Sale on Approval (SOA) Basis as per the specification detailed in the notification.** The tender notification details may be obtained through e-procurement mode by logging on to website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The date of commencement of access to tender documents is **08.05.2026** and Last date and time for submission of bids is **15.05.2026**

Sd/- General Manager (Marketing)

Government of Karnataka
Administrative Training Institute
Lalitha Mahal Road, Mysore -570011

No: ATI/12/TND/TEND/2026-JD-ATI Dated: 08.05.2026

TENDER PUBLICATION

The Administrative Training Institute, Mysuru is inviting Tenders through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, for providing Cooking and Catering Services for officer trainees and related purpose, for a period of one year. The Registered/eligible firms/organizations can submit their Tenders through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal within the stipulated date. For further details please visit the **Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
The Tender documents can be viewed on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from **08.05.2026,** onwards. The last date for the submission of Tenders is on **23.05.2026 at 5.30 PM.**

Sd/-Joint Director (Admin)
DIPR/MYSORE/157/SSC/2026-27 Administrative Training Institute, Mysore

Hubballi-Dharwad City Water Company Limited
(Wholly owned company of Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation)
Reg office: CSS NO.122/124, I Floor, HDMC,
Sanskruthik Bhavan, Hubli Traffic Island, Hubli-Dharwad, Karnataka- 580029,
Phone: 0836-2000456 Email:cwckuidfchbldwd@gmail.com

No. HDCWCL/HR/CS/RETAINER BASIS/2026/04 07-05-2026

NOTIFICATION FOR COMPANY SECRETARY ON RETAINER BASIS

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development & Finance Corporation (KUIDFC) invites applications from qualified and experienced professionals for appointment to the following post on **Retainer basis.**

Sl. No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
1	Company Secretary	01

The last date for receipt of applications is **22-05-2026.**
For detailed eligibility criteria, remuneration, application procedure and other information, please refer to the detailed notification published at office, for more details aspirants may contact to office address.

Sd/-
Managing Director
DIPR/DWD/150/2026-27/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY HDCWCL, Hubballi.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2026-27/391
Dated:06/05/2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-4 on E-procurement portal for 07 no of works pertaining to Koppal and Raichur district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from **Rs. 100.00 to 500.00 Lakhs** . The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **11.05.2026.** Last date & time for receipt of tender is **20.05.2026** time 16.00 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **18.05.2026** 11.00 Hours at Division office koppal. date & time for opening of technical bid **22.05.2026** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **25.05.2026** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/71/KSMCA/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office Of The Chief Veterinary Officer (Animal Husbandry), Bengaluru-560002

No: CVO/HOD/AH/TENDER/PR-06/2026-27 Date: 07-05-2026

RFP Notification

Bengaluru West City Corporation invites proposal in two cover system for supply of combined vaccine (5 in 1) for stray dogs in BWCC, Rajarajeshwari Nagara Zone (Zone-1) and Malleswaram Zone (Zone-2)
Following are the Events of Bid process: (1) Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka public Procurement portal website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : 11-05-2026** onwards. **(2)** Tender Inviting Authority : Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC **(3)** Tender Accepting Authority : Commissioner, BWCC **(4)** Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka public Procurement portal : **15-05-2026 5:00 pm (5)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **15-05-2026 11:30 am,** following venue: Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, 18th Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bengaluru-560 098 **(6)** Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement portal : **25-05-2026 5:00 pm (7)** Date and Time of Opening of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement portal : **26-05-2026 5:10 pm (8)** Place of Opening of RFP : Online at Karnataka Public Procurement portal **(9)** Address for Communication : Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Head, Animal Husbandry Department, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone, 18th Cross, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560 098. Phone : 9480685206 Email: **cvohodah.bwcc@gmail.com**

Sd/- Chief Veterinary Officer,
Head, Animal Husbandry Department, BWCC

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-03/14/2025-26/217 Date: 08.05.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Smt T.V.Mamatha W/o P.Manju has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from"Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose pertaining to Sy.No: 228/4 extent of 02Acre-09Guntas of Belavadi Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to General Public.
2. If this land is developed Job opportunities will be available to all sector of labourers.
3. If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4. If the development of layout takes place, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
DIPR/CP/JA/571/2026-27 BMICAPA, Bangalore.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ.
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ : 08262–295901
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : dmkfdcckm901@gmail.com
ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಂಕೆವನ, ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು–577102

"ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ"

1) KFDC/DM/CKM/A6/E&T/2026-27/68 dt: 02.05.2026 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವಿವಿಧ ನೆಡುತೋಪುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಮೆದುಮರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಡಿತಲೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಖಾನೆಗೆ ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.05.2026 ರ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆ ರವರೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

2) KFDC/DM/CKM/A3/Adv&Planting-2026/2026-27/75 dt:04.05.2026 ರಲ್ಲಿ 2026 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಳೆಗಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸದಾಗಿ ಕೊರಂಬಿಯಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಕೇಶಿಯಾ ಸ್ಪಿಂಗ್‌ವೆಲ್ ಸಸಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ಲಾಂಟಿಂಗ್ ಮಾಡಿ ದಿ:31.03.2027 ರವರೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ/ಪೋಷಣೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.05.2026 ರ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆ ರವರೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವದಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

3) KFDC/DM/CKM/A3/2025pltn/2026-27/72 dt:04.05.2026 ರಲ್ಲಿ 2026-27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ 2025 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೊರಂಬಿಯಾ & ಆಕೇಶಿಯಾ ಹೈಬ್ರಿಡ್ ನೆಡುತೋಪುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ 2ನೇ ವರ್ಷದ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದಿ:31.03.2027 ರವರೆಗೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.05.2026 ರ 17:30 ಗಂಟೆ ರವರೆಗೆ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಸಕ್ತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ / ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಿನ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

, ಸಹಿ/– ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು ಕ.ಅ.ಅ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು.

Govt to provide internal quota for 23,379 posts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has decided to follow internal reservation for 23,739 of the 24,300 posts approved by the Finance Department across Groups A, B and C.

These 24,300 posts are part of the 56,432 posts that the government has decided to fill up. Since the remaining 561 jobs occur where there are less than 15 roster points, they will be recruited as general SC seats, without implementing internal reservation (all the communities coming under SC will be considered together).

Muslim convention to review Congress govt on May 16

BENGALURU, DHNS: A collective of Muslim organisations is hosting a state-level convention on May 16 where they will review what the Congress government has done for their community amid simmering anger over unkept promises.

The 'Karnataka Muslim Convention' will be organised by the Karantaka State Muslim Federation whose ad-hoc committee has prepared a report on the Congress government.

According to a release, the report highlights issues faced by Muslims in terms of their representation under the Congress government, the pending court cases on the hijab ban and 4% reservation, hate speeches and hate crimes, budgetary allocation, anti-cow slaughter law, anti-conversion law, scholarships for students and so on.

"Serious dissatisfaction was expressed" at a recent meeting of the federation "over the manner in which the Congress government has treated Muslims in the state." The release also stated that the Muslim community "should keep its options open" if Congress continued to take them for granted.

No politician will be invited to the convention, which will be held at Town Hall, the release stated.

The convention comes in the backdrop of anger against the Congress for not giving the Davangere South bypoll ticket to a Muslim. Disgruntlement rose after disciplinary action was initiated against Congress MLCs Naseer Ahmed and Abdul Jabbar for anti-party activites.

This anger led to a split in the the party's votes during the bypoll. Congress won by a narrow margin of 5,708 votes. However, the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) polled 18,975 votes, which Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar described as "a big setback".

B'luru civic polls between June 14 & 24: SEC

Polls, From Page 1

Citing Supreme Court directions, the SEC said there was "no question of postponement" and stressed that he lacked the power to extend the timeline for holding the polls. "A final indulgence has already been granted. A compliance report must be filed before the Supreme Court by June 30," Sangreshi said.

The commissioner said the government had been asked to suggest suitable dates between June 14 and June 24. "Whether they give dates or not is left to them. We have consulted them and taken their inputs. The election date will be finalised after one week," Sangreshi added.

The commissioner further stated that the SEC plans to consult Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the calendar of events as "per the protocol." The commission may also decide on whether to stick to its earlier plan of holding elections using ballot papers or instead proceed with electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Only 50.7% schools in state have internet connectivity: Report

NITI Aayog points to digital divide in K'taka's classrooms

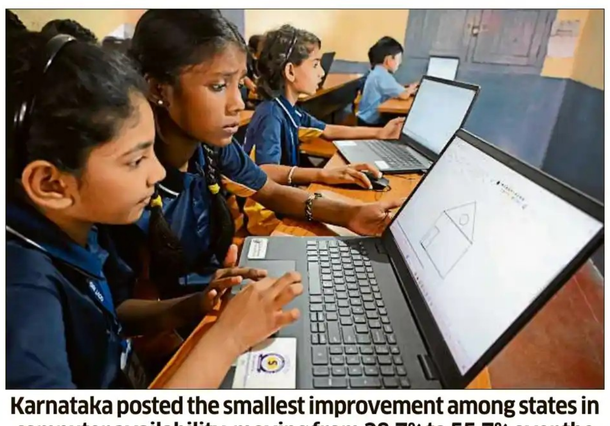
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has only 50.7% of its schools connected to the internet, a NITI Aayog report released recently has revealed, exposing a sharp contrast between the state's global digital reputation and its basic educational infrastructure.

The report, titled 'School Education System in India: Temporal Analysis and Policy Roadmap for Quality Enhancement 2026', stated: "Karnataka, home to Bengaluru, the country's leading IT hub, has only about half of its schools (50.7%) connected to the internet, reflecting a stark contrast between the State's global digital profile and its basic educational infrastructure."

Starting from a very low base, several states and Union Territories have achieved near-universal internet coverage over the past decade, the report stated. Delhi, Chandigarh, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Andhra Pradesh have reached or are close to complete provision.

States like Gujarat (96.5%), Goa (93.2%), Kerala (91.7%) and Punjab (88.9%) have achieved near-universal connectivity. At the other end, West Bengal (18.6%), Meghalaya (26.4%), Arunachal Pradesh (33.6%), Manipur (36.6%), Tripura (41.7%), Madhya Pradesh (45.7%) and Uttar Pradesh (45.9%) record the lowest levels.



Karnataka posted the smallest improvement among states in computer availability, moving from 38.7% to 55.7% over the decade, according to the report.

Computer availability

On computer availability, Karnataka posted the smallest improvement among states, moving from 38.7% to 55.7% over the decade. In contrast, Assam (9.8% to 78.7%), Jharkhand (9.7% to 76%), Odisha (13.7% to 76.7%) and Uttarakhand (33% to 91.3%) recorded the sharpest gains.

Lakshadweep reached 100%, with Delhi, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Kerala and Punjab all crossing 99%. Despite the overall expansion, more than one-third of schools across the country still lack computers, and wide interstate disparities persist.

Enrolment

Karnataka's Gross Enrolment Ratio at the secondary level has crossed 100%, currently at 101.3%, a rise of 22.46% over the past decade. Among states exceeding 100%, Chandigarh leads at 110.1%, followed by Goa (107.5%), Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (104.9%), Himachal Pradesh (102.6%), Karnataka (101.3%) and Delhi (101.1%).

At the higher secondary level, Karnataka recorded the largest relative improvement over the decade, moving from 29.68% to 61.4%. Bihar (22.38% to 38.1%) and Assam (28.55% to 43.5%) also posted gains. The steepest declines were in Lakshadweep (75.75% to 51.1%) and Arunachal Pradesh (54.67% to 43.7%).

For girls at the upper-primary stage, Karnataka improved from 90.58% to 103.9% and Andhra Pradesh from 81.47% to 102%, both crossing and moving close to universal coverage.

"The decadal movement shows that secondary education remains the most fragile link in the schooling cycle, where economic constraints, social factors and weak institutional support converge to limit participation," the report stated.

KSLSA to plant 5 cr saplings across state in 3 years

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA), in collaboration with the Dhare Foundation, is launching a large-scale environmental initiative to plant five crore saplings across Karnataka in the next three years.

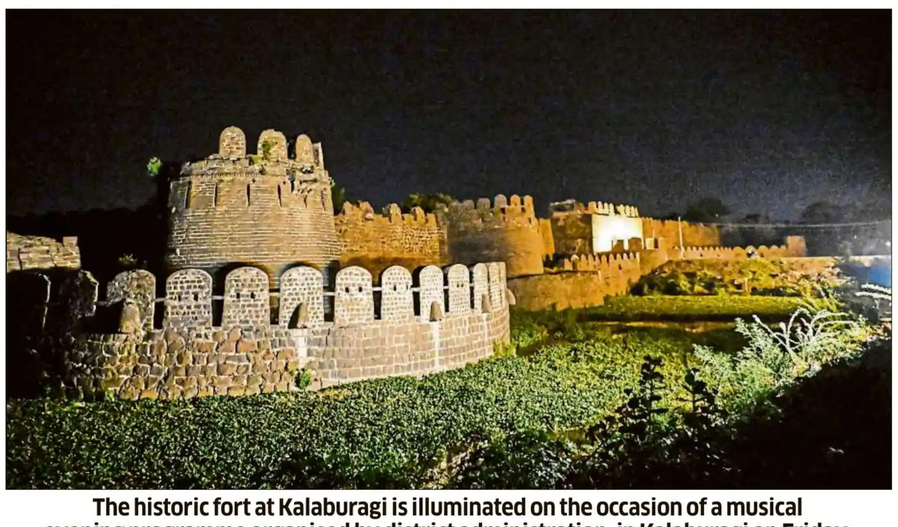
As a part of the initiative, two crore saplings will be planted in and around Bengaluru under the 'Green Ring Bengaluru' mission and the remaining three crore saplings in other districts of the state.

H Shashidhar Shetty, Member Secretary of KSLSA, said that under the 'Green Ring Bengaluru' mission, plantation would be carried out within a 50-km radius of the Vidhana Soudha, divided into three zones: Urban Core (0–10 km) with 20 lakh saplings, Peri-Urban Zone (10–30 km) with 80 lakh saplings and Rural/Forest Belt (30–50 km) with one crore saplings. The plantation will be carried out by adopting the Miyawaki method (small stretches of dense forests).

With increasing construction activity in and around Bengaluru, natural habitats for birds, butterflies, bees, and insects are disappearing. Miyawaki forests create dense, multi-layered vegetation, provide food, shelter and nesting spaces and act as mini forests that become natural homes for living species, Shetty said.

The KSLSA stated that the mission is designed as a collaborative effort involving institutions, corporates, and citizens, a press release said.

FORT IN FULL GLOW



The historic fort at Kalaburagi is illuminated on the occasion of a musical evening programme organised by district administration, in Kalaburagi on Friday.

DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Vijay closer to CM chair...

Vijay, From Page 1

Friday was a day of dramatic developments as the IUML, with two MLAs, made several U-turns after announcing support for the TVK. In the end, IUML said it will not support a TVK government and will continue in the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance.

Injecting a new angle, AMMK chief T T V Dhinakaran met the Governor late Friday night and submitted a letter seeking to invite AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami to form the government. After the meeting, he said that his lone MLA S Kamaraj, who won from the Mannargudi seat, was missing from the resort where he was staying since Friday evening, and raised a suspicion that he might be in touch with TVK.

However, Dhinakaran and Kamaraj returned to the Raj Bhavan a few hours later.

His letter of support to EPS triggered a speculation whether the AIADMK was trying to form a government with outside support from DMK. However, the DMK on Friday said it will not support the AIADMK.

After hectic parleys, CPI and CPM announced 'unconditional' support to the TVK government from outside.

"We will not join the TVK cabinet. We have not entered into an alliance with the TVK; we have only extended our support. However, we will continue to travel with the DMK in the struggle to oppose communal forces and protect state rights along with other issues that are central to Tamil Nadu," the parties said in a joint statement.

After meeting the Governor, Vijay drove straight to meet Left leaders to thank them for their support.

Sources said the VCK was bargaining hard by demanded deputy chief minister's post for its leader Thol Thirumavalavan. Party leaders indicated that they have decided to support TVK but said only a formal communication from the party is final.

Suvendu to take oath as WB's...

Suvendu, From Page 1

Ghosh, one of the old guards of the BJP in West Bengal, had frosty relations with Suvendu, who had defected from the TMC to the saffron party in December 2020, but the party high command made them agree to a truce just before the Assembly elections.

The election of the BJP legislature party leader was overseen by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who said that all eight proposals received were in favour of Suvendu.

"Narendra Modiji's mantra 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Viswas, Sabka Prayas (Together with all, development for all, trust of all, efforts by all)' should show us the path," Suvendu told the newly elected BJP legislators after being elected as their leader. "We will implement all the promises we made in our poll manifesto in a time-bound manner."

He later visited the Lok Bhavan with Ghosh, state BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya, as well as other leaders of the saffron party, and staked the claim to form the next government.

Modi, Shah and chief ministers of several BJP-ruled states will attend the swearing-in ceremony.

In July 2024, shortly after the BJP suffered a setback in West Bengal in the parliamentary elections, Suvendu, then leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, had questioned the utility of the 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' slogan in a meeting of the party leaders in Kolkata and suggested switching to 'Jo Hamare Sath, Hum Unke Sath' (We are with those who are with us)". His comment had created a flutter, although he had later said that he had only suggested what should be the BJP's strategy in West Bengal.

Since narrowly defeating Mamata in Nandigram in the 2021 elections, Suvendu has been wearing Hindutva on his sleeve and stated after the polls that he had not received votes from the Muslims and would work as the legislator of only the Hindus, who had supported him.

Even after winning in Bhabanipur in addition to Nandigram in the just-concluded parliamentary elections, he told journalists that Hindus, Sikhs and Jains of the constituency had voted for him and only the Muslims voted for Mamata.

"Bhoi (fear) is out and, as Narendra Modi ji has said, bharosa (trust) is in," he said, adding, "A commission headed by a retired judge will investigate all corruption cases. The commissions will also probe into incidents of atrocities against women, and the guilty will be punished."

The BJP government, he added, would work towards rebuilding West Bengal and aim to win the support of "over 60% people" before the next elections through "positive governance".

"This mandate is not about enlarging our organisation or proving an ideology, but about sealing the biggest breach in the nation's security. Infiltration and cattle smuggling in West Bengal will now be ended," Shah said. He alleged that Mamata's 15-year tenure had witnessed the "politicisation of governance and the criminalisation of politics" in the state. "Under a BJP government, neither the administration will be politicised, nor will politics be allowed to turn criminal," Shah added.

Traffic curbs for PM's visit tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS

Traffic in many parts of Bengaluru is expected to be severely hit on Sunday, May 10, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the city, addressing a public gathering at the HAL Airport and later attending the 45th anniversary celebrations of the Art of Living International Centre.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have announced the following curbs from 5 am to 3 pm.

HAL Airport area restrictions

Movement of all vehicles will be prohibited on HAL Airport Exit Road: From Old Airport Road up to the DGCA Office (both sides). HAL Airport Gate No 30 Road: From Umbrella Junction up to Gate No 30 (both sides).

Parking prohibited

Old Airport Road (SD Road Junction to Trinity Junction), HAL Gate No 30 Road and the Airport Exit Road.

Parking

From Marathahalli/Whitefield: Drop passengers near Gate No 2 on Airport Exit Road before 8.30 am. Park at Sir M Visvesvaraya College Ground, Murugeshpalya.

From City Side: Drop passengers opposite Gate No 2 before 8.30 am. Park at HAL Bus Yard on Suranjan Das Road.

NICE Road and South B'luru

Major restrictions will be in place on NICE Road from 9 am to 3 pm, specifically between Sompura Cloverleaf Junction and Kanakapura Road.

Alternative routes

Tumakuru Road to Kanakapura Road: Take a right at CMTI Junction via Rajkumar Punyabhoomi Road.

Magadi Road to Kanakapura Road: Divert at Sumanahalli Junction.

Mysuru Road to Kanakapura Road: Use Nayandahalli Junction and proceed via Outer Ring Road.

To reach Bannerghatta Road: From Konanakunte Cross, turn left toward Harinagara Cross and use Jambusavari Dinne Road.

Kanakapura Road diversions

Vehicle users travelling between Bengaluru and Kanakapura should use Uttarahalli-Kengeri-Agara route or Anjanapura 80 Feet Road to reach Bannerghatta Main Road, bypassing the restricted NICE Road junctions.

Govt finally appoints chairperson to Admissions Overseeing Committee

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has appointed retired High Court judge Justice Ramachandra D Huddar as the chairperson of the Admissions Overseeing Committee for professional courses – a post that had been vacant for more than one-and-a-half years. A notification confirming the appointment was issued on April 28, but Justice Huddar is yet to assume office.

The term of the previous chairperson ended in October 2024, and grievances that the committee rightfully ought to have redressed have been lying ignored ever since. Officials at the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) confirmed that they had received plenty of complaints against private educational institutions, particularly against medical, engineering and nursing colleges, with many students accusing them of charging excessive fees.

"In 2024, all we could do was give students who filed complaints in person was an acknowledgement slip, while complaints received on mail were forwarded to the concerned departments," a KEA official said.

In 2025, in view of the growing number of complaints, the Department of Higher Education tasked the Fee Regulatory Committee with addressing plaints pertaining to fees. The KEA official pointed out that the Fee Regulatory Committee was not empowered to address complaints filed with the Admissions Overseeing Committee. "But since there was no other option, the task was assigned to the Fee Regulatory Committee to protect the students' interests," the official added.

Complaints of colleges demanding excessive fees and withholding original documents for leaving the course midway through the academic year were markedly higher in 2024 and 2025 compared to the previous years, said another official.

"Despite the government clearly capping the extra fees that colleges can collect at Rs 20,000, some institutions are allegedly asking students to pay up to Rs 70,000," the official said.

The newly appointed chairperson will also have to contend with the petition filed by COMEDK seeking a probe into charges of top engineering colleges engaging in seat blocking practices.

The new chairperson was appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Karnataka Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admissions and Determination of Fee) Act, 2006.

Gadag police recover Anna Bhagya rice worth Rs 14 lakh

▸ **GADAG, DHNS:** Rice earmarked for distribution to beneficiaries of the Anna Bhagya scheme is being polished and sold at inflated rates under a variety of brand names to other states.

Gadag police seized 34,720kg of Anna Bhagya rice worth Rs 14 lakh that was being allegedly being illegally transported to Gujarat.

Gadag police also seized the 10-wheel lorry worth Rs 29 lakh in which the rice was being transported, besides taking the driver into custody.

The lorry bears a Madhya Pradesh licence plate, police said. When the driver was quizzed about the vast quantities of rice in his vehicle, he spilled the beans on the racketeering network.

LPG crunch threatens to stall over 400 B'luru MSMEs

LPG crunch, From Page 1

Even though their fuel costs have tripled, they cannot raise their own prices. If they stop supplying, they get blacklisted. This means many are now working at a total loss just to stay in business.

"We are caught in a trap," said the owner of a small-scale unit.

"We have fixed-rate contracts with large-scale industries for six to 12 months. We cannot hike our prices mid-contract, but our fuel costs have tripled. If we don't supply, we get blacklisted; if we do, we incur losses," he said.

The PIA, representing over 12,000 industries, has formally petitioned both the state and Union governments. Beyond the gas crisis, the association noted that rising electricity bills, water taxes and property taxes are pushing the sector toward a crisis.

"We are being squeezed from all sides," said PIA president D P Danappa. "Private gas is too expensive, and our bills for electricity, water, and taxes are all going up at the same time."

Danappa described the cessation of supply from government agencies in April as the "tipping point".

"While the Centre recently released an emergency fund of Rs 2.5 lakh crore for MSMEs following a feedback session on the impact of the war, what we specifically need is an interest subvention scheme and direct subsidies to survive this fuel volatility," he told *DH*.

South first choice for B'luru second airport?

Airport, From Flap

The Kanakapura side also has more kharab land available.

"The government has already earmarked some positives in south Bengaluru, which includes the availability of both land and airspace. Hence, there is a push for the airport to come up near Kanakapura Road. Once the feasibility study is done, the government will finalise it in the Cabinet and then send it to the Centre for approval. This should all likely be done by the year-end," an AAI official said.

To move ahead with the project at the proposed Kanakapura locations, the Instrument Flight Procedures (IFP) will depend on the IFPs at the HAL airport and TAAL airport in Hosur. And for the Nelamangala location, it will depend on the IFPs of HAL Airport, IAF-Yelahanka, and the Kempegowda International Airport.

Aircraft operations at Nelamangala airport will hamper aircraft operations at the aforementioned three airports, hence restricting the capacity of the proposed airport, according to the feasibility report released by AAI in November 2025.

All three locations comprise both hard and soft rocky terrain, "presenting significant challenges during execution", it stated. While the locations near Kanakapura have hills on the eastern and western sides, the Nelamangala location features hills on the northeastern and western sides.

However, Industries Minister M B Patil has maintained that the final location will only be decided "based on merit".

"No location has been decided yet. It cannot be decided until we complete our feasibility study. We need to look at the geographical, and also financial viability of the product," he told *DH*.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at a few places over Coastal & North Interior and at one or two places over South Interior Karnataka.
Forecast May 9: Partly Cloudy sky. Light rain likely at one or two places towards evening /night.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	35.8	22.4	9.0
Bidar	38.4	22.6	0.8
Vijayapura	36.0	22.5	3.6
Dharwad	34.2	22.0	0.0
Haveri	36.0	22.4	1.4
Kalaburagi	39.8	26.2	tr
Raichur	37.6	27.0	0.0
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.0	26.1	0.0
Karwar	35.7	27.4	0.0
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	30.6	26.1	0.4

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	30.1	22.7	0.0
Bengaluru	32.5	23.3	0.0
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	--	--	--
Chikkamagaluru	--	--	--
Chitradurga	36.4	23.1	0.0
Davangere	35.0	21.5	0.0
Hassan	--	--	--
Mysuru	34.2	22.0	0.0
Madikeri	--	--	--
Kolar	33.2	23.4	0.0
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	36.0	27.0	NIL
Kolkata	35.0	26.0	NIL
Mumbai	34.0	29.0	NA
Chennai	32.0	28.0	NA
Pune	39.0	23.0	NA
Hyderabad	36.0	25.0	NA
Th'puram	31.0	27.0	NIL

I.N.D.I.A UNITY FRAYS: Kanimozhi writes to Speaker; Akhilesh takes cryptic dig at Congress

Bloc cracks: DMK seeks separate LS seating

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Kanimozhi's letter seeking a separate seating arrangement for DMK MPs in Lok Sabha and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's cryptic post on not abandoning one in times of difficulty after Congress' support to TVK on Friday laid bare the troubles in the now fragile I.N.D.I.A bloc, even as Left parties and VCK indicated support for the actor-politician.

The uneasiness in the bloc, with the DMK announcing its exit almost two years after AAP's leaving, could reflect in the Monsoon Session of Parliament when the Modi government may try to bring Bills on the contentious delimitation, which a united opposition defeated last month, and early implementation of women's quota.

After DMK leaders' attack on the Congress for leaving the alliance within 24 hours of Stalin's defeat in the Assembly elections, its senior MP Kanimozhi shot off a letter to Speaker Om Birla saying that they want a change in the seating arrangements in the House as the alliance with the Congress has "come to an end" and in view of the "changed political circumstances".

She told the Speaker that it "may not be appropriate" for DMK MPs to "continue occupying the present seating arrangement alongside" them and sought separate seating, "enabling them to effectively discharge their responsibilities" in Lok Sabha. MPs from the DMK, which is angry over its ex-partner's "backstabbing", are currently seated next to Congress MPs.

In 2024, after the I.N.D.I.A bloc reduced the BJP to 240 seats in Lok Sabha elections, Congress had written to the Speaker on behalf of the allies, barring then 29-member Trinamool Congress, to allocate seats to the 205 MPs as a bloc.

Akhilesh also appeared to have weighed in on the developments and, in an apparent dig at the Congress, said on X, posting pictures with TMC's Mamata Banerjee and Stalin, "We are not the ones who abandon each other in times of difficulty." Kanimozhi was quick to respond with a "thank you for the solidarity and support" post.

The SP chief had visited Mamata in Kolkata on Thursday and expressed solidarity with her. Interestingly, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi too had endorsed her allegations of vote theft in Bengal elections and barred partymen from "gloating over" the results.

While allies are singling out the Congress for dumping DMK, the Left parties — CPM and CPI — and VCK also extended support for TVK after much delay, albeit informally.

They were in a dilemma over leaving the DMK alliance immediately after the results, after taking a position that they "cannot act like Congress" even while acknowledging the mandate for TVK, but Stalin's decision to explore joining hands with AIADMK helped them shed their reluctance in changing their stand.

A file photo shows a united bloc with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, DMK's Kanimozhi and others during a joint protest in New Delhi. The Congress is facing backlash as allies accuse the party of backstabbing. PTI

TVK offered us 2 ministerial posts, says TN Cong chief

CHENNAI, PTI

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president K Selvaperunthagai said on Friday that the Congress would be a part of the new government in Tamil Nadu led by actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), and claimed that his party had been offered two ministerial posts and one Rajya Sabha seat.

Speaking to reporters here after a statewide protest against the Governor's delay in inviting the single largest party (TVK) to form the government, Selvaperunthagai said the party top brass is currently finalising the details of their participation.

"They (TVK) have said two ministers and one Rajya Sabha member. However, the final decision on the number of portfolios and specific demands rests with the Congress national leadership," he said.

Alliance assurances

Dismissing concerns regarding a "hung Assembly", the TNCC chief noted that the alliance has "almost reached" the required majority mark of 118 seats. He assured that the government would be stable once the majority is proven on the floor of the House.

The TNCC chief criticised the Governor for the alleged delay in inviting the TVK to form the government.

While the Congress joined the TVK-led alliance with specific conditions, Selvaperunthagai noted that the CPI and CPM have extended unconditional support from the outside rather than joining the coalition formally.

He welcomed their support, noting that national leaders had been in discussion with the Left parties.

Why DMK backtracked after weighing alliance with AIADMK

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In a volte-face following major public backlash, the DMK on Friday announced it would never support its arch-rival AIADMK in forming a government in Tamil Nadu, stating that the two remain "major political enemies".

The party's woman face and deputy general secretary Kanimozhi Karunanidhi said the people's verdict must be respected even though it was not a "clear mandate". She dismissed as "speculation" talk of the arch-rivals joining hands to block TVK's Vijay from power.

Until Thursday night, the DMK had been toying with the idea of supporting an AIADMK government from outside to "secure the future" of both parties, as leaders feared allowing Vijay to assume charge as chief minister would leave them powerless for at least a decade.

DMK president MK Stalin gave ample hints of this shift by asking newly elected legislators to stay put and be prepared to accept any decision he made in the interest of the party's goal to establish a stable government in the state.

While a section in the DMK was excited by the AIADMK's proposal, leaders like Kanimozhi reportedly opposed the idea vehemently. They argued that tacitly supporting the AIADMK would sound the death knell for the DMK in the long run.

The Left parties and the VCK have a combined strength of six.

Acknowledging or supporting such an "unusual" formation was another reason for the DMK to reconsider backing the AIADMK. Without the support of these three parties, no one could form the government.

"It is the people's mandate, and in a democracy, what the people decide is supreme. Unfortunately, it is not a clear mandate, but whatever it is, we have to respect it," Kanimozhi said on Friday.

In the evening, Stalin urged Governor RV Arlekar to immediately initiate the constitutionally mandated steps to form a new government.

VOLTE-FACE

- Stalin's party rejects AIADMK tie-up after backlash
- Kanimozhi says people's mandate must be respected
- Some leaders toyed with AIADMK support, others warned of long-term damage
- Some felt Vijay would be unstoppable for a decade unless blocked now

'Invite TVK to form govt in TN': Party leader moves SC

NEW DELHI, PTI: A member of actor-turned-politician Vijay-led TVK on Friday moved the Supreme Court seeking directions to Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to invite his single largest political party to form the government in the state.

The plea in the apex court has been filed by Ezhilarasi K, who has contended that the governor's failure to invite Vijay violated Articles 12 and 32 of the Constitution.

"Issue a writ of mandamus or any such other writ to direct the Governor of State of Tamil Nadu to invite C Joseph Vijay, leader of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), to form the Government of Tamil Nadu and to swear him in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu forthwith," the plea said.

The plea has made the principal secretary to the governor, the state government and the Centre as parties.

The petitioner, an active member of the TVK, has sought an urgent hearing of the petition.

BJP 'trying' to win polls through SIR: T'gana CM

HYDERABAD, PTI: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday accused the BJP of "trying" to win elections through SIR of electoral rolls and said that the saffron party should be prevented from gaining power in the state.

Revanth Reddy

Speaking at an event where he flagged off buses carrying Haj pilgrims, without naming the BJP, he said what happened in West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other states should not be allowed to happen in Telangana.

"... we should come together against those who are trying to attack us in the name of Special Intensive Revision (SIR), those who want to run government. They are not getting anything here in a straightforward manner. So, they are trying to get it by craftiness. It is our responsibility to identify those who use craftiness," he said.

The BJP's intention is to secure Hyderabad by any means, he said.

Kerala: RSP(L) leader breaks down after electoral defeat

KOLLAM (KERALA), PTI: RSP(L) leader Kovoor Kunjumon, who lost the Assembly election from the Kunnathoor constituency after representing the seat for 25 years, broke down on Friday while speaking about his political future and electoral defeat.

The Revolutionary Socialist Party (Leninist-Marxist) leader had been winning elections from the constituency since 2001. Kunjumon was defeated by RSP leader Ullas Kovoor by a margin of nearly 25,000 votes.

Left Front rally in Kolkata protests 'attacks' on Lenin statues

KOLKATA, PTI: The Left Front held a rally in central Kolkata on Friday to protest the alleged attacks on the working class and the vandalism of Lenin's statues in West Bengal following the BJP's landslide win in the assembly polls.

Leading the rally in the Esplanade area, Left Front chairman Biman Bose said that the unity of the people, irrespective of their political affiliations, was crucial for the state.

Alleging that statues of communist icon Lenin were vandalised in Jadavpur in the southern outskirts of Kolkata and at Jiaganj in Murshidabad district, he said, "Those who are going to take oath tomorrow are trying to divide people in the name of religion, caste and creed."

Sanjay Raut hits out at Trump

MUMBAI, DHNS: Hours after Donald Trump congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi over BJP's landslide win in the West Bengal Assembly elections, Shiv Sena (UBT) hit out at the US President saying the endorsement appeared premature and misplaced.

"These are state-level elections — an internal matter of India's federal democracy. Any external endorsement appears premature and misplaced," said Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut in a post on X.

Observers report 'majority' for Venugopal in Kerala CM race

Leadership seeks consensus amid rallies in support of Satheesan

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Congress leadership is hoping to take a final decision soon on the competing claims of KC Venugopal, Ramesh Chennithala and VD Satheesan for the Kerala chief minister's post. Observers, who submitted a report on Friday on the views of MLAs regarding their choice, warned that any delay could precipitate trouble in the state.

Sources said the central leadership is trying to build consensus by the weekend and has asked Satheesan, Chennithala and Congress' Kerala president Sunny Joseph to reach Delhi for deliberations on Saturday, even as public processions were held in several places demanding Satheesan's elevation as CM.

However, discussions may gather pace only on Saturday evening, as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi may travel to Chennai if the swearing-in of TVK chief Vijay as Tamil Nadu CM takes place during the day.

During the day, sources said, central observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik — who visited Kerala to gauge MLAs' opinion — submitted their report, which is learnt to have said that Venugopal enjoys an overwhelming majority in the legislature party.

According to sources, Venugopal has the backing of 43 of the 53 MLAs, while 10 left the decision to the party High Command. The Satheesan camp claimed support from 35-36 MLAs, while Chennithala's supporters said their leader has the backing of 23 MLAs.

The observers are learnt to have suggested in their report that the leadership could also weigh public sentiment, which favours Satheesan. Allies too prefer Satheesan, but sources said the observers did not comment on that.

The choice will be tricky for the central leadership, as whichever way it goes, the leaders who are overlooked will need to be convinced why their claims were set aside.

VD Satheesan's supporters take out a march in Thiruvananthapuram, demanding that he be elected CM. PTI

Refrain from rallies: KPCC

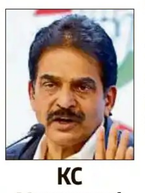
As Congress workers' rallies for V D Satheesan as the CM intensified, he and the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) have asked them to keep off such public events, reports DHNS.

Many party workers expressed their anger at All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K C Venugopal for staking a claim to the CM's post.

Bid for top post faces Lok Sabha seat test in Alappuzha

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

With Congress leader KC Venugopal emerging as a key contender for the Kerala chief minister's post, both the BJP and CPM see an opportunity in a possible bypoll at the Alappuzha Lok Sabha seat currently held by him.


KC Venugopal

If the AICC general secretary is elevated to the CM's chair, he will have to vacate Alappuzha — one of Kerala's most closely fought constituencies between the CPM and Congress.

The BJP, too, has reasons to watch the seat keenly. In the 2024 election, its vote share rose by 11% when its firebrand leader Sobha Surendran contested. Alappuzha has also been a tough battleground for Congress, with several senior leaders tasting defeat there in the past. Hence, the Alappuzha Lok Sabha seat cannot be considered a safe bet for the Congress.

"Considering the huge leap the BJP made in Alappuzha during the 2024 elections, there are chances for the party to win if a bypoll is held," Jayaprakash, a senior journalist from Alappuzha, told *DH*.

BJP sources said the party's victories in three Assembly seats in south Kerala and in the Thiruvananthapuram corporation have already boosted its confidence.

The Congress has meanwhile faced criticism after the Rajya Sabha seat vacated by Venugopal in 2024, following his Lok Sabha win, went to the BJP.

HISTORIC FIELD

Brigade Parade Ground braces for new turn in Bengal's political wheel

KOLKATA, PTI

Long before TV studios began decoding electoral optics and social media turned politics into a perpetual spectacle, Bengal measured political strength through human tides surging into the Brigade Parade Ground.

Since 1950s, the sprawling field in the heart of Kolkata has witnessed international political luminaries like Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez attending functions.

On Friday, workers erected giant rainproof hangars and policemen marked security grids under dark clouds across the Maidan, another name for the ground owned by the Indian Army. It appears that what was once a military parade ground of the British was ready to witness an ideological transition in Bengal's political history.

The Brigade Parade Ground once symbolised the might of the Left Front, hosted anti-Congress mobilisations, and later became the stage for Mamata Banerjee's anti-BJP opposition showpieces, It is now preparing to host the swearing-in ceremony of Bengal's first BJP government.

If elections decide power in Bengal, Brigade often legitimises it. For generations, the vast green expanse beside the iconic Victoria Memorial has functioned as the state's ultimate political theatre — where parties displayed organisational muscle, leaders tested public mood, and regimes projected inevitability.

By Saturday evening, when the BJP leadership takes oath before an expected sea of supporters, another chapter will be added to Brigade's crowded political folklore.

The symbolism is unmistakable. From the late 1970s onward, the CPM transformed Brigade into the epicentre of Bengal's street politics. Massive annual rallies routinely turned the Maidan into a sea of red flags, reinforcing the aura of a party that would eventually rule the state uninterrupted for 34 years.

For decades, crowd size at Brigade became Bengal's political currency. The fuller the ground, the stronger the message.

But Brigade's memory stretches far beyond the Left years. Its political mythology was also shaped by towering figures from global politics. In 1955, Soviet leaders Nikita Khrushchev and Nikolai Bulganin received a massive public reception here, when Kolkata stood at the centre of India's socialist imagination.

Preparations underway at the Brigade Parade Ground ahead of the swearing-in ceremony in Kolkata on Friday. AFP

Denied green signal, Mamata brings Tagore event near home

KOLKATA, DHNS: Trinamool Congress supremo and outgoing chief minister Mamata Banerjee, will be celebrating the 165th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on Saturday, when Suvendu Adhikari will take over the helm of the new BJP government in West Bengal.

TMC alleged that its plea for permission to hold Rabindra Jayanti — the birth anniversary of the polymath — was denied by the authorities at the behest of BJP. Mamata then decided to hold the celebrations near her home in Kalighat.

"Yes, you read that right, this is the New Bengal. This is the great 'Poriborton'. Permissions were sought for 3 different locations by non-political organisations - ALL DENIED. Hence, we will continue to hold the celebrations honouring Kobiguru Rabindranath Tagore in the area adjoining our Hon'ble Chairperson's residence," TMC posted on X.

TMC further wrote in the post that BJP could never "rip out" Tagore from "our heart and soul".

Suvendu aide killing: Second 2-wheeler seized; SIT visits UP

KOLKATA, PTI: Investigators on Friday recovered the second motorcycle allegedly used in the murder of Chandranath Rath, a close aide of senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, even as the West Bengal Police intensified search for a car suspected to have been used in the crime, a senior officer said.

A seven-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), formed on Thursday with officers from the state CID, Intelligence Branch (IB), and the Bengal STF to probe the murder, left for Uttar Pradesh to "collect technical and field-level evidence" in the case, he said without giving any further details.

The second motorcycle allegedly used in the crime was seized near Rail Gate No 11 in Barasat, around 6 km from the North 24 Parganas district's Madhyamgram, where Adhikari's personal assistant was shot dead on Wednesday night, said the officer.

Investigators had seized another motorcycle from near Gate No 2.5 in the Kolkata airport area. However, the police found that its number plate was fake.

The investigators were now examining whether the number plate and engine number of the second motorcycle were genuine, said the officer.

"Efforts are on to trace a four-wheeler, which might be used in the crime. The investigation is underway, and all possible angles are being examined," he said. The police suspect the four-wheeler, believed to be red in colour, might have carried seven to eight people involved in the crime, and could be registered outside West Bengal.

The police had earlier seized another car near the crime spot in Madhyamgram. Its number plate was also found to be fake. The original one belongs to a person based in Siliguri, who works in a tea estate. "The person had posted an advertisement for the sale of his car on a website. He claimed he received a call from a prospective buyer based in Uttar Pradesh. There could be a link to UP," said the officer.

In Uttar Pradesh, the team will "collect technical and field-level evidence", he said, adding that "the police are following certain leads outside the state as well.

A senior SIT member said the probe was on in multiple fronts, though the identities of those behind the killing were yet to be ascertained.

'Hindutva, identity': Yogi's 2027 poll pitch from Deoband

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Virtually setting his party's agenda for next year's Assembly polls, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hinted that the BJP would contest the elections with national identity, Hindutva and development at the core of its strategy.

Yogi Adityanath

Addressing a public meeting in Deoband, home to the renowned Islamic seminary Darul Uloom in Saharanpur district, Adityanath said on Thursday that the recent Assembly poll results in West Bengal, Puducherry and Assam showed that people would no longer tolerate the "politics of caste and appeasement".

He claimed that the "fatwa culture" in the state had ended after the BJP came to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2017.

"The recent polls in some states prove that people will oust parties working against Indian culture, national identity and social unity," Adityanath said.

The CM also claimed there had been no communal riots in Saharanpur since the BJP came to power. "UP is now riot-free and mafia-free."

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A floor test at the Lok Bhavan

Political uncertainty prevails in Tamil Nadu regarding the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) forming the new government in the state. Governor Rajendra Arlekar's insistence that the TVK – the single-largest party after the April elections – produce evidence for its majority in the Assembly lacks constitutional grounding and may have set a wrong precedent. By Friday, when the TVK mustered more support from other parties, including the Congress, TVK chief Vijay had already visited the Lok Bhavan three times to stake his claim. Instead of stalling the TVK, Arlekar could have followed examples set by the nation's presidents and governors of other states. The assumption behind requiring evidence of a majority is that the Governor must be satisfied with the government's support in the House. However, this assumption lacks legal or constitutional merit.

When no other party has staked its claim, the Governor is incumbent to invite the leader of the largest party to form the government. Precedents support this, including the case of Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the national level in 1996, and cases involving B S Yediyurappa in Karnataka, Devendra Fadnavis in Maharashtra, and leaders in other states. In constitutional terms, the stability of the incoming government should not concern the Governor – a minority government under P V Narasimha Rao went on to complete its full 1991-96 term. Article 164(1) states that the chief minister shall be appointed by the Governor, and Article 164(2) mandates that the "council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the legislative assembly." There is no implicit or explicit condition of majority support. Courts have ruled in several cases that the "pleasure" of the Governor is not subjective.

Deferring Vijay's invitation to form the government in Tamil Nadu has weakened established practices

Arlekar's actions amounted to testing the support of a government in the Lok Bhavan. Courts have ruled that such tests should only be held on the floor of the House. The convention is for the Governor to swear the chief minister in and demand that the majority be proved within a stipulated time. The script may have followed a political direction. For the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Centre, a state government led by alliance partner All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) may hold appeal. However, such a move would have been unethical. Constitutional and political justice demand that Vijay be invited to form the government, regardless of whether he secures the necessary support in the House.

Fatal negligence calls for liability law

Bengaluru's ambition to project itself as a world-class metropolis is laid bare by a grim statistic from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s report for 2024: the city recorded 17 deaths caused by civic negligence, the highest among India's metro cities for the sixth consecutive year. The causes are depressingly familiar. Electrocutions from snapped live-wires, accidents triggered by broken footpaths, exposed cables, dug-up roads, and poorly maintained infrastructure continue to kill Bengalureans with alarming regularity. Residents routinely avoid pavements because walking on them is often more dangerous than walking on the road itself. In large parts of the city, footpaths are unusable, encroached upon or reduced to obstacle courses of debris, cables, and open drains. This is hardly the infrastructure of a "global city."

More than two decades ago, S M Krishna promised to transform Bengaluru into the "Singapore of India." Since then, government after government has repeated the rhetoric of premier infrastructure while presiding over worsening urban chaos. Roads are dug up by multiple agencies with little coordination. Projects are launched with fanfare but executed without accountability. Every authority operates in isolation, and no one accepts responsibility when disaster strikes. The horrors of recent years illustrate this collapse. In 2023, 23-year-old Soundarya and her infant daughter Suviksha were electrocuted near Hope Farm after stepping on a snapped wire lying unattended on a footpath. That same year, software engineer Tejaswini and her two-year-old son Vihaan were killed when a Metro pillar reinforcement cage collapsed on the Outer Ring Road. Both tragedies sparked outrage. Both triggered inquiries. Neither produced meaningful systemic reform.

Weak legal accountability has allowed civic negligence to persist without institutional consequences

What follows such incidents has become a familiar ritual: compensation announcements, committee formations, and bureaucratic blame games. Meanwhile, officers and contractors whose negligence enables these deaths are rarely prosecuted or held personally liable. Even compensation reflects how little value the system places on human life. Families are offered arbitrary *ex gratia* sums of Rs 5 lakh or Rs 10 lakh, disconnected from the victim's age, income or future earning potential. In countries such as the United Kingdom or the United States, civic negligence invites massive civil liability, including punitive damages designed to force institutional reform. In India, litigation is painfully slow and prohibitively expensive, allowing governments to escape real accountability. What the country urgently needs is a unified civic liability law that mandates prosecution, not just compensation. Until civic negligence carries real legal, financial, and professional consequences for officials, citizens will continue to pay for administrative failure with their lives.

MIXED RESULTS

Deleted voters deepen India's crisis of trust

The Opposition rhetoric lacks conviction; only a mass democratic movement can protect constitutional ideals

PARAKALA PRABHAKAR

The opposition parties in India are either naive or we must conclude they aren't truly sincere when they shout about vote *chori*. If they truly believe what they say about vote *chori* and massive targeted deletions, why are they participating in these fake elections and sitting in legislatures elected based on these voter list deletions? I've argued for a long time that given serious questions about the fairness of due process in elections, the entire Opposition should boycott elections and resign their seats from all legislatures: the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. This will deny the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legitimacy in the eyes of the people.

Let me say this about Mamata Banerjee's stand. If she's really serious about rejecting the declared mandate and refuses to resign, it means that she doesn't recognise the assembly to be constituted, implying she considers the outgoing legislature still valid. In that case, she should say all her party members who got elected in this illegitimate election would quit the House, and she should make them quit. Then, her stance carries conviction. If you say, 'my party's winners are ok, but your party's winners are illegally elected', what does that say about her conviction?

An argument with conviction would be to reject the results, even if she won, because the deletion of 93 lakh votes and the denial of voting rights to 27 lakh people vitiates the process, irrespective of the winner or loser. If this were her position, it would be considered genuine, and her stance would be accepted as taken with conviction. Now, she is open to accusations of being a sore loser. With the large-scale deletions and a humongous number of 'under adjudication category' voters not allowed to vote, it is time that all opposition parties sit together and do some serious thinking.

Consider Bihar and the Vote Adhikar Yatra led by Rahul Gandhi, described as "a united fight to protect the most sacred right in our democracy – the right to vote." It covered over 1,300 km and 20-plus districts to "expose voter list manipulation and demand clean voter lists from the Election Commission." Looking at the surging crowds, the Congress fancied that they'd somehow win. So, victory mattered more than disenfranchised people. If they won, should it be the case that deletions and disenfranchisement did not matter?

Any eligible person struck off the electoral rolls should worry everyone who remains on the rolls. Recollect that during the hearings regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR)

of voter lists in West Bengal in April 2026, Justice Joymalya Bagchi of the Supreme Court raised concerns about scenarios where the deletions might turn out to be more than the margins of victory, which would invite serious scrutiny from the Supreme Court. One implication of this is that a deletion becomes an issue only on the basis of the preferences of those who are not deleted. If those on the voters' list choose a party/candidate and the margin of that party's/candidate's victory is less than the number of deleted citizens, do the deleted matter? Note that after the results, nobody discusses those deleted from the electoral rolls in Bihar.

A similar story is repeated in states that went to the elections but about which there is not as much controversy – Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry – and the states that did not go for elections but had SIR, like Uttar Pradesh, where 2.8 crore voter deletions happened: What about them? No political party, no media, not even the so-called independent digital platforms talk about them. In other words, do 2.8 crore people not matter to us when there's no election?

In defence of India

Boycotting elections and resigning from legislatures until this institutional capture is broken might sound and look like an ideal but impractical solution. But very rarely do the ideal and the practical converge in real life. In our nation's life, this is the moment that calls precisely for that convergence. At this juncture of our Republic, when we face a deep crisis, the practical is ideal, and the ideal is practical.

If we are to believe that Mamata Banerjee is a real crusader, let her decide that all her newly elected MLAs resign or refuse to take oath in the new legislature that she questions the legitimacy of. Then, she will carry conviction in my reckoning. Otherwise, she will be vulnerable to the charge that she is just a sore loser. But can the Opposition bite the bullet? It is not a business-as-usual situation anymore. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. After all, it is the Republic that is at stake. It's our Republic. We gave the Constitution unto ourselves.

Only a peaceful, Gandhian 'feet on the ground' movement can save our 1950 compact. The values embedded in that 1950 compact – Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, Justice, and Secularism – can be defended only by that. Each one of us must decide and work for rescuing the Republic and the Idea of India. Keep in mind that everyone who lives in this land owns this country. It's not owned by any one denomination, religion, caste, creed, region, colour, eating or dressing habit, or tradition. It's owned by everyone. Forces that are in disagreement with this idea of India assaulted it and worked for a hundred years to undermine it. Today, there is no alternative to defending the essential character of India, a country, a territory, a space that is and must be available for everybody.

(The writer is a noted economist, political commentator, and a former communications advisor to the Government of Andhra Pradesh; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

This carrot is a stick

The modern kitchen has always been a quiet ledger of forces larger than itself

JAHNAVI GURJER

In the genteel kitchens of Bengaluru, where olive oil is discussed with the seriousness of foreign policy and sourdough starters are treated like dependents, geopolitics has finally found its rightful place: between the carrot and the cutting board.

The Middle East, reliably turbulent, has demonstrated that global crises are not abstract. They arrive uninvited, disguised as a spike in grocery bills or the disappearance of "fresh, pesticide-free" vegetables that must, apparently, travel more than we do.

A carrot, once a humble root, now carries the burden of international diplomacy. It sits there, slender and faintly judgemental, asking, 'Do you understand supply chains?' Do you grasp the fragility of global trade routes? Do you, dear urban consumer, know why I cost what I do today?

In calmer times, we romanticised "farm-to-table" as a lifestyle flourish. Today, it feels like operational excellence. The same households that once debated kale versus spinach now negotiate with vendors like mid-level trade envoys. "Why is coriander Rs 40 a bunch?" is no longer a question; it is a policy challenge.

What does a crisis in distant lands have to do with a Bengaluru kitchen? Everything. Oil prices inch upward, transport costs follow, and suddenly the tomato, once deployed with abandon, demands restraint. The onion, already theatrical, acquires new emotional range. Even the green chilli seems sharper, as if conscious of the news cycle.

And somewhere between tempering mustard seeds and recalibrating monthly budgets, a quiet realisation slips in, uninvited but insistent: Your kitchen is not apolitical. It is a frontline of global reality, one that smells of cumin and compromise.

Adaptation, of course, is swift. Zucchini becomes a metaphor for flexibility. Imported lettuce exits without ceremony. Seasonal, local, and sustainable terms, once brandished for polite signalling, acquire sincerity.

The irony is difficult to miss. It takes a crisis thousands of kilometres away to return us to what our grandmothers considered common sense: cook what is available and respect what feeds you. Wisdom, it appears, benefits from geopolitical endorsement.

Bengaluru will endure. Its kitchens will hum, its residents will recalibrate, and its dinner conversations will remain animated, if slightly better informed. Adversity has always been an excellent seasoning.

So the next time we hold a carrot priced just a touch higher than memory permits, we might pause. Not in outrage, but in recognition. This is no longer just produce. It is evidence.

Now, the carrot is not a reward but the stick.

Many may call this perspective not excessive or indulgent, but the modern kitchen has always been a quiet ledger of forces larger than itself. Prices whisper histories, ingredients carry maps, and dinner becomes a modest act of comprehension daily, more so in uncertain times like these.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Civic authorities must work to make Bengaluru safer

Apropos 'For 6th year, B'luru tops metros in civic negligence deaths' (May 8), the city topping the list of metros in civic negligence deaths for the 6th year in a row is alarming, and repetition should be avoided at all costs. Most of the deaths due to civic negligence occur due to electrocution, which can be avoided if civic authorities pay due attention to hanging live wires—a distressingly common sight in the city. It is the bounden duty of the civic authorities to make the streets safe for pedestrians, and this can only be done if there is proper inspection at regular intervals. Stiff penalties should be levied on those guilty of dereliction of duty, and wherever possible, licences of those units found guilty of negligence should be cancelled.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

End Pak's deception

A year after Operation Sindoor, it is disgusting to see Pakistan escaping punishment again. Despite their role in the Pahalgam massacre, this terror-exporting nation is being welcomed by global leaders. Pakistan is a master of lies. They use terror as a tool and hide behind China's help to avoid justice. It is an insult to our fallen soldiers that a country harbouring killers is being applauded by the West. The central government must stop being soft on Pakistan, a neighbour that only understands the language of violence. India's diplomacy should ensure that the world stops rewarding Pakistan's deceit before more innocent lives are lost.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Revamp KPSC

Apropos 'Reform in KPSC cannot wait' (May 8), the formation of a house committee under R V Deshpande to recommend structural reforms is welcome. The recommendations of the earlier committee chaired by P C Hota have been all but binned. The vigilance should not be allowed to go wayward by succumbing to the pressures of unscrupulous elements, both within the officialdom and without. The activities that lead to incapacitating the functioning of administration should be addressed immediately by plugging the loopholes. Expert suggestions should be implemented, and the KPSC should be revamped.
S Sundaresh, Bengaluru

Maintenance is key

I refer to your editorial 'Safeguards lost in a cycle of neglect' (May 7). The repairs and maintenance departments in most organisations receive stepmotherly treatment, often neglected in terms of funding and resource allocation. A close look at the recent GBA budget also reveals this familiar pattern — the allocation for operation and maintenance is less than 7% of the total budget. The government must initiate steps to rectify this anomaly.
Jagadish J, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

It is not backstabbing; it is to protect the Constitution and democracy.
K Selvaperunthagai, Congress leader (on severing ties with the DMK to support TVK in forming the government in TN)

Those are my principles, and if you don't like them... well, I have others.
Groucho Marx

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

When justice stops being seen

Public trust in judicial impartiality suffers when judges' sense of integrity outweighs the appearance of fairness

ABHINANDITA DAYAL MATHUR

The foundational maxim that justice must not only be done but also be seen to be done is no mere rhetorical flourish. It is the vital artery of judicial legitimacy. It is a structural restraint on judicial power, one that recognises a truth: courts derive legitimacy not only from the correctness of their decisions but from the credibility of the process by which those decisions are reached.

For decades, this principle served as a minimum standard of discipline. Even amid political upheaval, the judiciary fought to preserve the appearance of fairness, understanding that this "appearance" was not superficial but constitutional.

Today, that promise is being quietly recalibrated. As the judiciary grapples with high-stakes constitutional questions, a disturbing shift emerges. The recusal plea by Arvind Kejriwal, arising out of proceedings in the Delhi excise policy matter and argued by him in person, compels a more difficult inquiry. The issue is not whether bias exists; it is whether the circumstances give rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias, and whether they sustain a litigant's confidence in receiving a fair hearing. The law understands that once a litigant loses faith in the umpire, the game is already lost.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma addressed each of the grounds urged by Kejriwal through a structured rebuttal in her 115-page order. This episode marks a distinguishable departure from the established approach to judicial recusal in India.

Legal history offers a stark contrast. The origins of the concept are found in *R v Sussex Justices, ex parte McCarthy*, decided in England in 1924. There, a court quashed a conviction not because the decision was wrong, but because a clerk with a potential conflict had been present during deliberations. The judges accepted that he had not influenced the outcome. It did not matter. The mere possibility that justice might not appear to have been done was enough to invalidate the proceedings.

Indian jurisprudence was forged in this same fire. In *Manak Lal v Dr Prem Chand Singhvi*, the Supreme Court held that the likelihood of bias, judged by a reasonable person, is enough to vitiate any proceeding. This was echoed in the *Kraipak* (1969) and *Ranjit Thakur* (1987) rulings, which established that the judiciary does not demand proof of a "crooked heart." It demands a process that is beyond reproach. The test is not what the judge feels, but what the public fears.

When we view the Kejriwal order through this lens, the institutional danger becomes clear. When recusal is resisted with such categorical intensity, the message to the public is that the judge's internal sense of integrity outweighs the public's external need for confidence. It reframes recusal as a matter of personal pride rather than a matter of public office. This is how the baseline of justice is redefined: not by rewriting the law, but by slowly raising the bar for what counts as a "reasonable" fear until only the most blatant corruption is recognised.

Justice Sharma has indicated that she may appoint three senior advocates as *amici curiae* following Kejriwal's decision to boycott the proceedings after the refusal of recusal.

Reframing bias

The concern is not confined to a single case. Questions about roster allocation, the concentration of administrative power within the court, recurring debates over judicial appointments, and the increasing strategic attention paid by the Bar to forum and bench – all point to a wider unease. These are not isolated anxieties. They shift how institutional fairness is understood, debated, and, at times, doubted.

Justice Sharma observes that "recusal has to stem from law, and not from narrative." Ironically, this ignores the fact that every judicial order is itself a narrative.

While Kejriwal has responded by invoking a form of *satyagraha* – an appeal, in effect, beyond the courtroom, the proceedings will continue. So, inevitably, will the theatre of justice. The stage remains, but the performance of justice as we know it may not.

The court has effectively ruled that while justice must be seen to be done, the public is currently denied standing to watch it. I submit that we have traded *stare decisis* for 'don't stare at us,' where a reasonable apprehension of bias is treated like a frivolous motion. The 'appearance of fairness' hasn't been overruled; it has just been summarily dismissed for failing to fit the court's new narrative. How, then, is the public expected to understand such reasoning? *Res ipsa loquitur* – the facts speak for themselves, but the court is clearly no longer on speaking terms with the facts.

(The writer is a lawyer and former advisor to the AAP government)

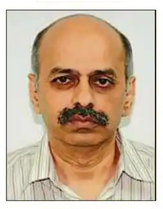
New Delhi's move against AsiaSat reflects growing concerns over Chinese-linked satellite infrastructure, strategic vulnerabilities and communication security risks

India draws a line against China in space

AJEY LELE

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has cancelled an agreement with Hong Kong-based Asia Satellite Telecommunications Company Limited (AsiaSat), prohibiting the use of the company's AS-5 and AS-7 satellites for communication services in India after March 31, 2026. AsiaSat was put on notice a year ago, and users in India have migrated to other platforms.

The decision was driven by national security concerns arising from AsiaSat's links to China, particularly the 50.5% ownership stake held by China International Trust and Investment Corporation (CITIC) Group Corporation. It underscores India's concern that commercial satellite infrastructure and communication networks can pose security risks due to potential foreign control or influence, especially from China, a strategic adversary.



Satellites & Security

- **IN-SPACe** declined to extend approval for **AsiaSat's AS-5** and **AS-7** satellites beyond March 2026
- Broadcasters shifted services to **Indian GSAT** satellites and other operators
- The move is seen as a part of India's effort to reduce reliance on infrastructure linked to the state entities of China

Core Concerns

- AsiaSat has links to China's state-owned CITIC Group, making it strategically sensitive for India
- Communication satellites are increasingly viewed as strategic assets because they can support commercial and defence operations
- Security agencies raised concerns over signal interception, surveillance vulnerabilities, communication disruption during conflict and dependence on foreign-controlled systems
- AsiaSat relayed television and communication signals for major Indian broadcasters, making it part of India's critical information infrastructure

India's Strategic Objectives

- Reduce reliance on communication systems linked to Chinese state-connected entities
- Expand domestic satellite capacity and secure communication capabilities
- Encourage the use of Indian GSAT platforms and trusted operators
- Align satellite communication policy with India's evolving national security doctrine

Global Perspective

- Satellite communication networks are increasingly treated as sensitive strategic infrastructure worldwide.
- The US, Europe and Indo-Pacific nations have enhanced scrutiny of Chinese technology and communication networks
- Modern satellite networks support broadcasting, military coordination, navigation, internet connectivity, disaster response and intelligence gathering

AsiaSat's Response
AsiaSat sends legal notices to the government and broadcasters of India

Timeline of Key Developments

1988: AsiaSat is established in Hong Kong as a commercial satellite operator serving broadcasters and telecom firms across Asia

1990s–2010s: AsiaSat becomes a major carrier for Indian television channels and satellite networks in South Asia

2009–2011: AsiaSat Launches AS-5 and AS-7, expands its role in India's broadcast sector

2019: AsiaSat is taken private in a deal involving China's state-owned CITIC Group and Carlyle, raising scrutiny over Chinese ownership links

2020: After the **Galwan Valley clash**, New Delhi expands security reviews of Chinese involvement across telecom, digital networks and space-linked services

2023: India expands space reforms through IN-SPACe, increasing oversight of foreign satellite operators

2024: New satcom rules allow India to consider national security concerns in approvals

2024–2025: Authorities raise concerns over AsiaSat's Chinese state-linked ownership and communication role

2025: Zee and JioStar are told AS-5 and AS-7 approvals may end after March 2026, prompting shifts to GSAT and other operators

March 31, 2026: India withdraws authorisation for AS-5 and AS-7, ending AsiaSat operations in India

Industry Snapshot

- India is among the world's fastest-growing satellite communication markets
- Demand for satellite bandwidth is rising due to broadcasting, remote connectivity, defence communication and expanding digital infrastructure
- The AsiaSat episode highlights how national security concerns are shaping India's space and telecom policies

Evolution of commercial satellites

Globally, commercial satellite applications began expanding in the early 1960s, marking the emergence of paid space-based communication networks. In 1962, Telstar 1 became among the first active communication satellites to transmit television signals across the Atlantic, demonstrating real-time international communication. This was followed by Syncom 3 in 1964, the first geostationary communication satellite, enabling live television coverage of the Tokyo Olympics. The commercial potential of satellite communications was established in 1965 with the launch of Intelsat-I, built by Hughes Aircraft Company for COMSAT, providing television, telephone and fax connectivity between Europe and the United States. Since then, the commercial satellite industry has expanded rapidly, becoming critical to communications, navigation, weather forecasting and digital connectivity.

For decades, the commercial satellite industry has thrived, with countries purchasing transponder bandwidth and services according to requirements. In recent years, private agencies have also started providing satellite-based internet connectivity. Such services were long treated as neutral infrastructure, but not anymore. As space technologies ranging from earth imaging to communications and navigation mature, it has become evident that service providers could covertly use networks for espionage. Space systems inherently possess dual-use characteristics, serving civilian and military agencies. This increases security risks, as systems designed for civilian applications can also support strategic operations. Today, several military conflicts depend on commercial satellite services.

Growing security concerns

AsiaSat's AS-5 and AS-7 satellites are communication systems used mainly for television broadcasting and telecommunications. They are high-capacity systems for VSAT, TV and broadband services. Reliance on commercial satellite systems always comes with challenges, ranging from espionage and cyber-attacks to intentional service disruptions. Naturally, India would have apprehensions about systems having Chinese links. In this case, the reported connections between AsiaSat and Chinese state-linked entities appear to have triggered a reassessment of the risks associated with allowing such infrastructure to operate within India's communication ecosystem.

Given the growing strategic rivalry between India and China, it is predictable that New Delhi would be cautious about engaging satellite operators linked, directly or indirectly, to strategic competitors.

India's strategic recalibration

With India celebrating the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor on May 7, policymakers would remember that China had provided Pakistan with intelligence inputs derived from satellite surveillance capabilities, including imagery and battlefield awareness support. India's decision to cancel the contract with AsiaSat must also be viewed within the context of its broader strategic recalibration towards China in recent years. Since the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes, India has been cautious regarding Chinese-linked investments and procurement of telecommunications equipment and digital services from agencies with Chinese links. India has also banned several Chinese mobile applications and imposed restrictions in sectors such as telecom and critical infrastructure. Naturally, the space sector was also expected to come under scrutiny, though contractual obligations may have delayed the move and prompted the advance notice given to AsiaSat a year ago. India has only recently exited networks with Chinese associations.

In future, India is expected to look for a 'trusted space partner' framework, similar to the 'trusted telecom vendor' concept implemented by the National Cyber Security Coordinator (NCSC) through the Trusted Telecom Portal (TTP) to secure telecom infrastructure. India must ensure there are no security compromises while selecting foreign commercial satellite service providers. At the same time, it needs to meet the demands of one of the world's fastest-growing digital and connectivity ecosystems. Indian space systems are currently unable to fulfil the rising demand for satellite broadband and related services, and dependence on foreign satellite operators is likely to continue.

On May 3 this year, Indian space-tech startup GalaxEye launched a satellite called Drishti featuring unique sensor technology. However, India's space startup sector will require several more years to mature before developing and launching indigenous communication satellites for downstream applications. While India's push for indigenous satellite constellations is a positive step, translating this vision into operational solutions will take time.

For outer space, the legal architecture exists. However, these rules were designed for the challenges of an earlier era, and agencies are now exploiting them to suit their purposes in a changed environment. The existing space architecture remains complex and opaque in addressing issues related to sovereignty, ownership, accountability in the event of mishaps, supply chain vulnerabilities and competing private interests. Space technologies are inherently dual-use, serving both civilian and military purposes. A comprehensive global legal regime is unlikely soon. The countries must exercise caution while engaging foreign commercial satellite service providers. Orbital infrastructure cannot be viewed separately from terrestrial geopolitics.

(The writer is Deputy Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi)

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Snakebite crisis in a warm climate

The tendency to seek shade from the heat brings snakes closer to humans, leading to habitat overlap and conflicts, writes Dennis C Joy

India faced an early and intense onslaught of extreme weather this year, with April temperatures soaring past 40°C, reaching as high as 46.9°C in regions like Maharashtra, due to the strengthening of El Niño, a naturally occurring climate phenomenon. This can disrupt rainfall patterns and elevate global temperatures, adding to the already rising heat driven by global climate change.

As the country grapples with the health and economic tolls of this heat, a more elusive danger has emerged: a significant spike in snakebite incidents. In Kerala alone, at least eight people, including several children, died from snakebites within a single two-week period in April 2026.

India faces a staggering snakebite burden, representing nearly 50% of global fatalities due to snakebites, with an estimated 50,000 deaths annually out of 3 to 4 million cases. The burden is primarily driven by the "big four" venomous species, the Indian cobra, common krait, Russell's viper, and saw-scaled viper, which are frequently drawn to human settlements for food and shelter from extreme heat.

A snake navigating the edge of a stagnant water body in Cubbon Park, Bengaluru.
DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Snakes in a warming world

Snakes are ectotherms, meaning they rely on sunlight or warm surfaces to regulate their body temperature rather than generating heat internally. This makes them highly sensitive to their environment, and extreme temperatures significantly alter their natural patterns and even their physiology.

"Rising summer temperatures can affect snakes in several ways. Moderate warming may increase activity windows, digestion rates, feeding frequency, and seasonal movement, but extreme heat can cause physiological stress, dehydration, altered habitat use, and increased mortality risk. Temperature may also affect breeding phenology, egg incubation, hatchling survival and prey availability," explains Kartik Sunagar, who heads the Evolutionary Venomics Lab at the Indian Institute of Science.

When ambient heat becomes unbearable, snakes seek cooler, damp shelters and reliable water sources to regulate their body temperature. The rising humidity also acts as a trigger, prompting snakes to move more frequently than they might in milder weather. The peak summer months of March to May coincide with the breeding and hatching season for many venomous species, including cobras and kraits. This leads to a natural surge in the population of juvenile snakes, which are highly active as they begin hunting.

This surge in activity and the drive to seek shade from the heat bring snakes closer to humans, leading to habitat overlap. Human settlements also attract rodents, frogs, and lizards due to poor waste management, further incentivising snakes to follow their prey closer to human settlements.

"During very hot and dry periods, snakes may move more frequently in search of cooler, humid refugia, water, prey, or suitable mating sites. This can bring them closer to houses, farms, wells, storage areas and peri-urban settlements, increasing encounters with people," says Kartik.

Challenges in anti-venom production

To reduce snake encounters and bites, both individual precautions and systemic medical preparedness are essential. Homeowners must ensure environmental hygiene and minimise areas where snakes can take refuge, and rodents can breed. Policymakers must work to reduce encounters with "habitat-aware planning, safe housing, rodent control, proper waste management, lighting in high-risk areas, protective footwear for agricultural workers, and community education before peak snakebite seasons," remarks Kartik.

When preventive measures fail, the primary defence against snakebites is polyvalent antivenom, primarily used to treat bites from the big four snakes. However, developing antivenom can be particularly tricky because snake venom varies widely, from region to region.

"Venom composition can vary dramatically across geography, among individuals within the same region, and even within the same individual across development," says Kartik. This is why a geographical region seeing newer snakes may not have effective anti-venoms.

A 2025 study of 105 snakebite patients found that two-thirds responded poorly to saw-scaled viper antivenom, likely because Rajasthan viper venom differs from the Tamil Nadu venom used to produce the antivenom. Scientists have been trying to keep up with the variations and to mitigate the venom's fatal effects.

"In our lab, we are developing recombinant antibodies that could counter snakebite without requiring repeated venom collection or horse immunisation for production. We are working on small-molecule inhibitors, which are orally deliverable pills that could potentially be taken soon after a bite to delay venom damage. They buy critical time for hospital care, and in some cases reduce or even circumvent the need for conventional antivenom administration," he adds.

Policymakers also need to address systemic challenges to improve medical outcomes for snakebite victims, particularly as extreme heat drives more frequent human-snake encounters. Oftentimes, although effective polyvalent antivenom is available at the taluka level in some regions, fatalities remain high due to a lack of timely medical intervention during the critical golden hour. This is the critical initial period following a bite, during which immediate medical action is necessary to prevent severe complications or death.

According to Kartik, "the key gaps are not only antivenom stock, but also training, confidence in identifying envenoming syndromes, management of anaphylaxis, airway support, referral decisions, availability of basic laboratory tests, and transport to higher centres."

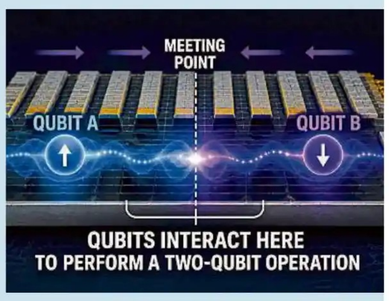
The National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAPSE), launched in March 2024 by the government of India, is a step toward addressing some of these shortcomings. With the goal of halving snakebite-related deaths and disabilities by 2030, NAPSE aims to significantly reduce India's snakebite burden through a One Health approach, improved healthcare infrastructure, and community engagement.

"The most important advice for people is prevention and a calm response. If bitten, immobilise the bitten limb, keep the patient calm, and reach medical care immediately within the golden hour. Do not cut, suck, apply ice, use tourniquets, consume alcohol, or rely on traditional remedies," concludes Kartik.

DID YOU KNOW?

Qubits learn to walk

For years, quantum computers have been held back by a fundamental design flaw — their qubits, the basic units of quantum information, are fixed in place and can only interact with immediate neighbours. A team led by Lieven Vandersypen at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands has now demonstrated a workaround, publishing their findings in Nature. Instead of stationary qubits, they used mobile ones that can be physically moved across a silicon chip.



The method, called conveyor-mode shuttling, uses moving electrical fields to transport electrons — which act as qubits — across a linear array of microscopic traps called quantum dots. A coordinated sequence of voltages applied to metal gates on the chip creates travelling electrical regions that carry the electrons toward each other. When they meet, their quantum states interact, allowing two-qubit logic operations to be performed. Crucially, the team achieved a two-qubit gate fidelity of approximately 99% — a high-precision result that lends the approach genuine credibility. The electrons are then moved back to their starting positions for readout.

The silicon-based design is particularly significant because it can be manufactured using the same industrial processes used to build conventional computer chips — a practical advantage that most quantum architectures cannot claim.

In a second experiment, the team demonstrated quantum teleportation. They entangled two electrons to create a persistent quantum link, separated them by 320 nanometres on the chip, and then used that entangled pair to transfer the quantum state of a third qubit to another electron elsewhere on the device — without physically moving that information.

The mobile qubit approach also allows quantum processors to adapt their connectivity patterns during operation, implement different quantum error-correction codes on the same hardware, and optimise resource use by using dedicated functional zones for specific operations. This architectural flexibility is something fixed-qubit designs simply cannot offer.

Researchers are cautious about overclaiming. There remain substantial engineering challenges before any of this translates into practical, large-scale machines. But the team believes mobile qubits will be a defining feature of future semiconductor quantum processors — a well-engineered step forward in a field that has long needed one.

- Phys.org

NCW seeks parole ban in rape, Pocso convictions

Commission cites rape-murder of 4-year-old girl in Pune as trigger for reform

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The National Commission for Women (NCW) has called for a complete ban on parole for convicts in cases of rape, aggravated sexual assault, and serious offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, citing the rape and murder of a four-year-old girl in the Nasrapur village of the Bhor tehsil in Maharashtra's Pune district as a trigger for urgent systemic reform.

NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar said the commission would soon submit its formal recommendations to the Central government.

She called the Nasrapur case "deeply painful, heartbreaking, and shocking", as well as "a blot on humanity." The NCW took suo motu cognisance of the incident on May 3.

The accused — 65-year-old Bhimrao Kamble, a labourer with a prior criminal record for sexual offences — allegedly lured the child to a cattle shed on May 1 on the pretext of showing her a calf, where he assaulted and killed her.

The police said Kamble had been arrested twice previously for similar offences. A Pune court on Thursday extended his police custody to May 12.

The case has drawn sharp questions over the local authorities' failure to monitor a known habitual offender.

It has "raised serious concerns regarding public safety and the confidence of women in society", said Rahatkar, adding that women's and children's protection, dignity, and security must remain paramount.

In its recommendations, the NCW has proposed amendments to prison and parole rules to classify rape, repeat sexual offences, and serious Pocso Act offences as categories ineligible for parole or temporary release.

The commission has also recommended mandatory risk assessment, electronic monitoring, strengthened police verification, and consultation with survivors or their families before any temporary release is considered.

The NCW has also pushed for the expedited establishment of special fast-track trial courts for cases involving sexual crimes against women and children, dedicated legal and subject experts for investigation and trial, and a time-bound independent mechanism to examine evidence and record witness statements.

SYSTEMIC CHANGE

- NCW to soon submit its formal recommendations to the Centre
- NCW proposes amendments to prison and parole rules to classify rape, repeat sexual offences, and serious Pocso Act offences as categories ineligible for parole or temporary release
- State police told to continuously monitor habitual offenders

Sohrabuddin case: HC junks plea against Shah's discharge

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In a significant development, the Bombay High Court has rejected an interim application seeking to challenge the discharge of Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah in the sensational twin-encounter cases involving alleged gangster Sohrabuddin Sheikh, his wife Kausar Bi, and his associate Tulsiram Prajapati.

While dismissing the appeals filed by Sohrabuddin's brothers, Rubabuddin Sheikh and Nayabuddin Sheikh, against a Special CBI Court's December 21, 2018, verdict acquitting 22 accused, the division bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam Ankhad also disposed of an application filed by Mumbai-based businessman Maniar Kalpesh Kumar challenging Shah's discharge from the case.

In the 2005-06 cases, the CBI arrested Shah — then Gujarat's Minister of State for Home — in July 2010. He was granted bail in October that year. Mumbai's Special CBI Court discharged Shah, the then BJP national president, on December 30, 2014.

The court said of Maniar: "He does not indicate how he is concerned with the pending criminal acquittal appeals... We, therefore, have no hesitation in observing that Interim Application No 1172 of 2026 has been filed with an oblique motive and at the instance of some political adversary of A-16."

The bench, while dismissing the appeals in encounters involving Sohrabuddin Sheikh, his wife, and his associate, also observed: "In a case based on circumstantial evidence, the law requires that the circumstances relied upon by the prosecution (CBI) must be fully established and form a complete chain of circumstances that point only to the guilt of the accused person and rule out any other hypothesis consistent with the innocence of the accused persons."

AI plane crash report likely to be out in a month: Minister

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: The probe into the Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crash, which killed 260 people last year, is at the last stage, and the final report is likely to be released within a month, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said in Gandhinagar.

Ram Mohan Naidu

"It is going to be about a year (after the plane crash). As per the information we have, the investigation is in its final stage, and it may take about a month to be completed," Naidu told reporters on the sidelines of the India Aircraft Leasing and Financing Summit 2.0 at GIFT City. He said, "Such investigations, especially related to international flights in which there were citizens from different countries, they can ask any questions. Any institution can raise questions. The final report will be up for scrutiny. Our report has to address all of them. And, therefore, we have to investigate with all seriousness, fairness and in a transparent manner. The investigation is following this process. Our attempt is to finish the probe as soon as possible. But, we don't have to interrupt the process for this," he said.

He also said that "Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau is carrying out the investigation independently" and the government was providing all the resources required.

India must build AI, cyber edge for future warfare: Rajnath

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India must strengthen its capabilities in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, data analytics and secure communication networks to stay ahead of enemies in the rapidly evolving geopolitical security scenario, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday.

"Future wars will not be won solely through weaponry, but through innovative thinking and enhanced synergy," he said, noting that conflicts will increasingly be shaped by hybrid threats, information dominance and operations conducted simultaneously across cyber, space, electromagnetic and cognitive domains. The minister was addressing the second edition of the Joint Commanders' Conference in Jaipur, where senior commanders from the three Services and the top brass of the defence ministry deliberated on ways to prepare for future conflicts.

Singh urged the commanders to inject an "element of surprise" to remain unpredictable to adversaries and secure a strategic edge in any situation. He also asked them to remain vigilant about possible surprises from the enemy and prepare for the full spectrum of conflict.

TARA successfully tested

Indian defence scientists have successfully tested a new weapon system that will turn an ordinary unguided warhead into a precision weapon.

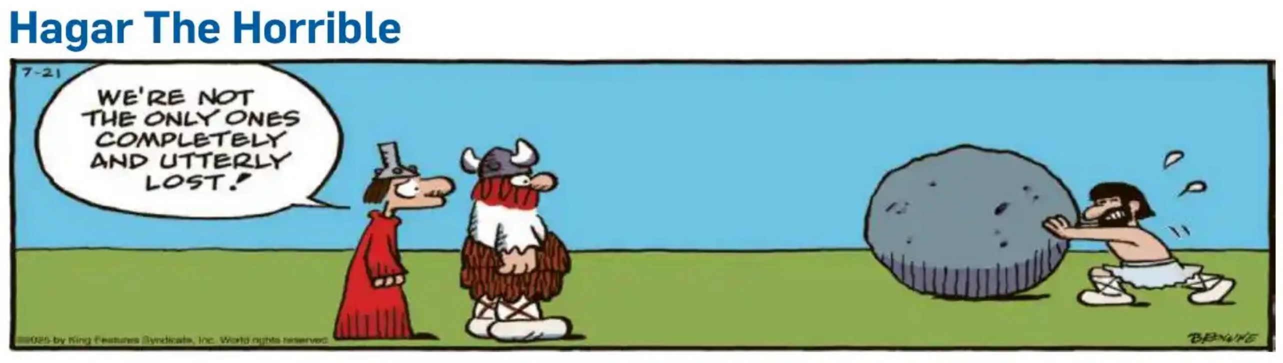
The maiden flight test of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon was conducted off the Odisha coast on May 7, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The trial was successfully carried out by the IAF and the DRDO.

MISCELLANY

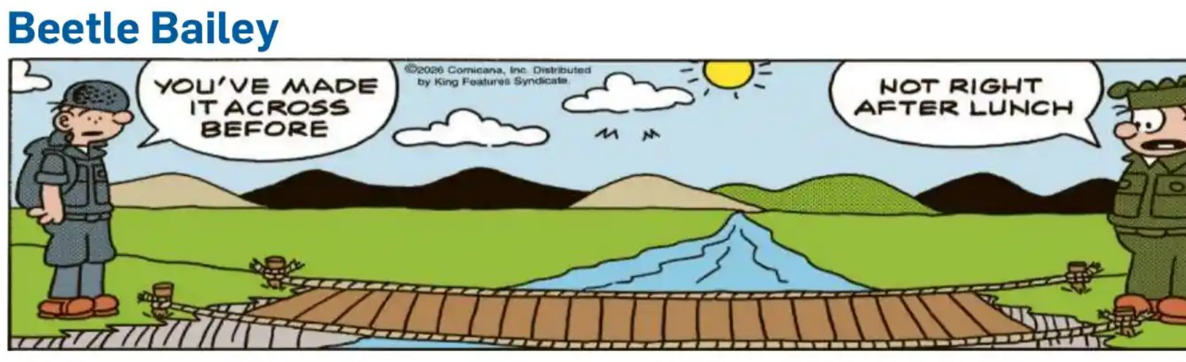
COMICS

Blondie

Hagar The Horrible



Beetle Bailey



Peanuts

Marvin

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

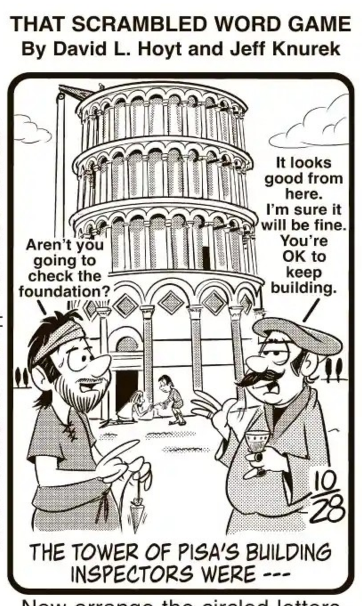
IYNOR

NEETV

ROFLAM

ELTRET

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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" - " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: LEVEL FORCE SPRAWL VANISH
Answer: The tennis balls at the courts were — SELF-SERVE

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4039

EASY

ACROSS
9 No longer married (8)
10 Sweet roll (3)
11 Relating to cattle (6)
12 Stick (6)
13 Study (7)
14 Remedy (4)
15 Section (10)
17 Car-starter (8)
18 Equatorial region (7)
19 Russian ruler (4)
21 Naturist (6)
24 "A bird in the hand is ..." (5,3,2,3,4)
27 Large wine bottle (6)
29 Accompanying (4)
30 Light (7)
33 Shoes (8)
35 Printing method (4,6)
36 Jetty (4)
37 Feels (7)
38 Slept (6)
40 Rupture (6)
41 See (3)
42 Invigorate (8)

DOWN
1 Neither cultured nor philistine (6-4)
2 Religious leader (4)
3 Derived from many sources (8)
4 Fan (7)
5 Being of a lower standard (11)
6 Voluntary refraining (10)
7 Wading bird (6)
8 Huge (8)
10 Harass (5)
16 Painkiller (7)
20 Holy person (5)
22 Cynic (7)
23 Clumsiness (11)
25 Type of shark (10)
26 Type of antelope (10)
28 Worried excessively (8)
31 One who is not present (8)
32 Speak boastfully (7)
34 Oppressive ruler (6)
35 Lacking sense (5)
39 Boy servant (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Intended to have one by me until then (8)
10 The pair overstated (3)
11 Wear and tear, it might be (6)
12 Blue, before being incarcerated, on a feast (6)
13 Means the daughter is into tennis-playing (7)
14 Being one of the family, is naturally upset at first (4)
15 Don't be impatient. Am bringing soft toy (4,4,2)
17 How switches switch from time to time (3,3,2)
18 Plan beforehand to do the orchestration (7)
19 Slump to which there is a story (4)
21 Round the corner is heard to egg on (6)
24 To be enjoyed when one's fairly tired? (3,5,2,3,4)
27 Rest one's back, having a specially designed seat (6)
29 A scrap from a letter (4)
30 Playing the cello, I'd make quite an impact on (7)
33 Not a true tot, anyhow; just a high voice (8)
35 In menswear, is it sold for peanuts? (6,4)
36 Only man the guns coming back (4)
37 Is the father limber but not robust? (7)
38 Caught in their awful clutches more than once (6)
40 The entrance is left at the top of the alley (6)
41 Over a quarter are single (3)
42 Quite a while with the former (8)

DOWN
1 Wishing one hadn't sunk so low? (4,6)
2 Not now that "41" has caught cold (4)
3 Playing with and cheating (8)
4 On the retiring editor, bestows a beam of pleasure (7)
5 Matter of fact, it's gravity that pulls one so (4,2,5)
6 There's no hurry to get trousers for the prisoners (4,2,4)
7 Twist music (6)
8 Produce only when a Beatle enters (5,3)
10 Half the battle is getting it the heading (5)
16 Again dares to upset all of you (7)
20 Nearly having a fight (5)
22 At least four cars on the border of the lake (7)
23 How hard it is to tempt someone really good? (5,2,1,3)
25 A smaller amount than any of the others? Certainly not!
(5,2,3)
26 Quite a lot of money earned for clearing litter? (4,6)
28 Fighting lethargy? (8)
31 Getting extra work again a while after (8)
32 Holy smoke! (7)
34 With spectacles, sees (6)
35 Entering myself, in a terrible state (5)
39 Ned got trained by her, somehow (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12412

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, C-heat 6, Scuba 9, New Deal 10, Stage 11, Lay in 12, Had up 13, Mil-lais 15, Sum 17, Eros 18, Sedate 19, SE-Ems 20, Allows 22, Rise 24, Lay 25, Flounce 26, Table 27, Ho.-p it 28, Marry 29, Meerkat 30, Order 31, Bobby
DOWN: 2, Hot air 3, Ang-E-ls 4, Tee 5, I'd-Eas 6, Salutes 7, Clap 8, Beir-U-t 12, Hides 13, Me-dal 14, Lolly 15, Satin 16, Melee 18, Smile 19, Sweater 21, Labour 22, Rubato 23, Scar-AB 25, Flirt 26, Time 28, Mab

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Hangs 6, Stash 9, Recover 10, Scree 11, Dance 12, Scrap 13, Console 15, Art 17, Erie 18, Tender 19, Beard 20, Lariat 22, Aria 24, Ore 25, Nascent 26, Staid 27, Peril 28, Topic 29, Teacher 30, Steed 31, Adder
DOWN: 2, Anchor 3, Grease 4, See 5, Force 6, Sedated 7, Trap 8, Secure 12, Sleet 13, Cello 14, Nitre 15, Adore 16, Treat 18, Tread 19, Battled 21, Ardent 22, Accord 23, Inside 25, Niece 26, Site 28, Tea

SU-DO-KU-6901

3		8		2			4	
	5	7					2	
6			5					
			7	4			3	8
		4				9		
7	2			8	1			
					5			6
	6					2	1	
	7			6		4		3

medium

SOLUTION TO 6900

4	9	6	2	5	1	8	7	3
5	3	8	6	9	7	4	1	2
1	7	2	4	8	3	5	6	9
9	4	5	8	7	2	1	3	6
6	8	1	9	3	4	2	5	7
3	2	7	1	6	5	9	4	8
7	6	9	5	4	8	3	2	1
8	1	4	3	2	6	7	9	5
2	5	3	7	1	9	6	8	4

To solve the puzzle:
To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE

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Tiles	Bonus	
A(1) N(1) S(1) E(1) L(1) P(3) P(3)	Double Word Score	RACK 1
B(3) F(4) S(1) C(3) U(1) U(1) S(1)	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
V(4) S(1) S(1) L(1) E(1) E(1) L(1)		RACK 3
E(1) I(1) W(4) G(2) E(1) D(2) N(1)	1st Letter Triple	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 125-135
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

Word	Rack	Score
D(2) R(1) I(1) P(3) P(3) Y(4)	RACK 1	20
N(1) O(1) U(1) G(2) A(1) T(1) S(1)	RACK 2	58
A(1) G(2) I(1) L(1) E(1) L(1) Y(4)	RACK 3	83
T(1) Y(4) R(1) A(1) N(1) N(1) Y(4)	RACK 4	76
	JUDD'S TOTAL	237

PAR SCORE 155-165

HITORI-3355

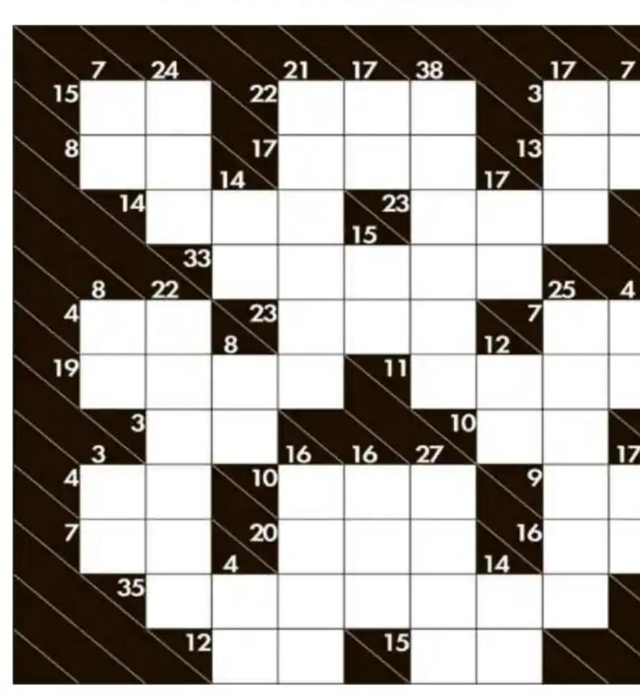
2	1	8	7	7	1	1	5
3	6	2	4	5	8	1	1
5	7	6	1	1	7	3	7
1	3	1	5	7	4	7	6
4	7	3	6	8	2	5	1
7	5	7	1	7	6	8	2
7	8	5	4	2	1	7	4
6	7	1	7	1	5	4	7

SOLUTION TO 3354

6	■	2	5	7	1	■	3
1	7	5	8	■	3	6	2
4	■	7	1	8	■	3	6
■	4		2	5	7	■	1
7	1	6	3	■	2	4	■
5	■	1	■	2	6	7	8
■	2	8	7	6	■	1	■
3	6	■	4	■	8	5	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3355



SOLUTION TO 3354

To solve the puzzle:
Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3910

	3		6			4		
			7					
				9				7
			3			9		8
							5	
3		2			4	7		
						5		
			8	3			2	
2							1	

SOLUTION TO 3909

6	5	3	2	8	9	4	7	1
4	9	2	1	7	3	8	5	6
8	7	1	4	6	5	3	9	2
7	6	8	3	9	4	2	1	5
3	1	4	5	2	6	7	8	9
5	2	9	7	1	8	6	3	4
1	4	6	9	3	7	5	2	8
2	8	7	6	5	1	9	4	3
9	3	5	8	4	2	1	6	7

To solve the puzzle:
The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

SC seeks Centre's reply on blocking of AAP social media accounts

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Centre on a plea filed by the Gujarat unit of the Aam Aadmi Party challenging the suspension of its social media accounts.

A bench comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe issued notice to the Centre and decided to consider the plea along with other pending petitions challenging the blocking of social media accounts and posts without prior notice to users.

Senior advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for the petitioner, contended that Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act, invoked by the authorities, was not applicable as it is a safe harbour provision for intermediaries.

He submitted that the pending petition involved overlapping, though not identical, issues.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that issuing notice to the Centre might not be necessary and that a copy of the petition could instead be served.

Legal basis questioned

In its plea, the party questioned the legal basis for the blocking and suspension of its social media accounts and sought a declaration that Section 79(3)(b) was not a source of power for authorities to direct the blocking of information.

The plea also sought a declaration that all consequential directions, rules and notifications issued under the provision, insofar as they relate to the blocking of information, are void.

AAP has sought the quashing of directions allegedly issued by law enforcement authorities for blocking or suspending the party's social media accounts.

'Won't order arrest': SC to monitor Ambani probe

Says investigation into bank fraud must be time-bound

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday said it would not order the arrest of industrialist Anil Ambani in the case of alleged bank fraud by Reliance Communications (RCOM) and its group entities, but stressed the need for a "thorough investigation" into the matter.

As advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for PIL petitioner EAS Sarma, described Ambani as the "kingpin" of the scam and urged coercive action, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said the court would prefer to monitor the case.

The PIL alleged systematic diversion of public funds, fabrication of financial statements, and institutional complicity across multiple entities of the Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG).

Bhushan said he found it puzzling that neither the CBI nor the ED was willing to arrest Ambani, "as if he was some holy cow".

Responding, the SC said, "Our problem on this issue is that once we dispose of the matter finally, we will be justified in expressing certain views on certain aspects. But, as of now, we are planning to monitor."

The bench added that the court would be very shy to order an arrest unless the investigating agency itself sought it, stressing that arrest could not be directed merely to sensationalise the case.

Bhushan said he did not want to sensationalise the matter or overreach in any way. "I am surprised that in a case where the CBI chargesheet says so much money was siphoned off at his express directions, no action has been taken," he said.

The SC observed that there are cases where custodial interrogation may become necessary.

"We leave it to the investigating authority as of now, without expressing any opinion," it said.

RCOM CASE

- SC says it won't order arrest just to sensationalise case
- Bhushan calls Ambani 'kingpin', urges coercive action
- PIL alleges diversion of funds, fabricated statements
- SC says probe must be time-bound to maintain public confidence

Lakhimpur Kheri case: SC fumes over delay

Asks presiding judge to take steps to secure presence of witnesses

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed displeasure over the non-production of witnesses in the ongoing trial against Ashish Mishra, son of former Union minister Ajay Mishra, and others in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

Ashish Mishra

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi pointed out that the status report the Uttar Pradesh government had filed had assigned no reason whatsoever for the non-production of witnesses.

The bench noted that no witnesses had been examined in the trial for around two months.

"We direct the presiding judge to take lawful measures to secure the presence of witnesses," said the bench, directing the trial court judge to make every effort to conclude the trial in a time-bound manner.

The SC, while hearing a plea related to the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, also asked the judge to file a status report.

The trial in two cases related to the incident is underway before a court in Uttar Pradesh.

On October 3, 2021, eight people — including four farmers — were killed in Tikunia in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri district during a farmers' protest against Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area.

Four farmers were mowed down by a sports utility vehicle. A driver and two BJP workers were then allegedly lynched by angry farmers. A journalist also died in the violence.

Court asks MP to decide on Sofiya case prosecution

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday expressed displeasure with the MP government over the delay in deciding on sanction to prosecute minister Kunwar Vijay Shah for his objectionable remarks about Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, saying "enough is enough".

The woman officer came into the spotlight after holding media briefings during Operation Sindoor in 2025.

A bench said the decision on the special investigation team's request for grant of prosecution sanction against the minister should have been taken two weeks ago.

The SIT investigated the case on the SC's directions and sought the government's sanction to prosecute Shah. The bench said, "Just comply with our order now. Enough is enough. The first thing should have been an apology. It was only after we took cognisance. List this after four weeks."

Set up NIA special courts for speedy trials: SC to Centre

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that at least one special court be established to deal with 10 to 15 pending trials in cases probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Passing a slew of directions to expedite trials in cases where the Centre, through the NIA, is the prosecutor, the apex court said the special courts should be set up within a month.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the Centre to approach the chief justice of the jurisdictional high courts and have consultations for establishing exclusive courts under Section 11 of the NIA Act, 2008.

Section 11 of the Act deals with the power of the central government to constitute special courts.

"We request the chief justice of the high courts to consult the state governments to provide requisite and sufficient space for the establishment of special courts where the presiding officers will be entrusted with the trial of cases," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a suo motu case titled 'In Re: creation of special exclusive courts'. The bench directed that no other cases shall be entrusted to the special courts and the trial would be conducted on a day-to-day basis.

The bench said the special court judges would be at liberty to list the matters in the manner they want while ensuring that at least one trial is concluded within a month.

"It is made clear that there shall be at least one special court for 10 to 15 pending trials," the bench directed.

It said two special courts would be set up if the number of pending trials were above 15.

The bench asked the states to comply with its earlier order in which it had said that it would be necessary for them to provide the requisite courtrooms and other immovable infrastructure for the establishment of the exclusive special courts.

It also dealt with the issue of trials in cases under Section 22 of the Act where the state is the prosecutor. Section 22 deals with the power of the state government to constitute special courts. It posted the matter for hearing in July.

DAY-TO-DAY HEARINGS

- There shall be at least one special court for 10 to 15 pending trials
- No other cases shall be entrusted to the special courts and the trial would be conducted on a day-to-day basis
- Apex court directs the Centre to consult chief justices of high courts

AIMIM leader under fire for harbouring Nida

MUMBAI, DHNS: Nida Khan, an absconding TCS employee accused in a case of alleged sexual harassment and religious conversion at the company's Nashik unit, was sent to police custody on Friday for three days till Monday, with police claiming that a local AIMIM corporator had provided her shelter.

A day after her arrest on Thursday, AIMIM corporator Matin Patel, who had allegedly harboured Khan and her family in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, along with former MP Imtiaz Jaleel, came under fire from the ruling BJP and Shiv Sena.

Social Justice Minister Sanjay Shirsat has sought a probe against Jaleel.

Crew member killed in maritime incident: Indian mission in Dubai

DUBAI, PTI: An Indian crew member was killed in an "unfortunate" maritime incident, the Indian mission said on Friday.

The Indian Consulate in Dubai did not give much information about the incident but said it was "saddened to learn of the unfortunate incident at Sea that caused the tragic death of an Indian crew of a ship".

In a post on X, the Consulate said it was in touch with the ship's owner and is ascertaining further details. "The Consulate will render all possible assistance in this matter on priority," it said.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the e-Auction Notification No. BDA/EM/e-Auction/T-03/2026-27 dated 02. 05.2026 published in this newspaper on 03.05.2026 the below mentioned sites have been withdrawn from the Auction. Details are as below.

Sl. No.	Notification Sl. No.	Layout	Site No.
1	2	Anjanapura Layout 1st Block	512
2	6	Anjanapura Layout 1st Block	563
3	51	Sir M Vishweshwaraiah Layout 6th Block	1448

In lieu of the withdrawn sites the below mentioned sites have been included for Auction and the last date for expression of interest: **22.05.2026,** Bid commencement date: **26.05.2026** and Bid closing date: **27.05.2026, 5.00 PM (Delta Time 5.00 Min.).**

Sl. No.	Layout	Site No.	E-W (In Mtrs)	N-S (In Mtrs)	Total Area (in Sqm)	Rate per Sq. mtr
1	Arkavathi Layout 7th Block Jakkur	1245	12.00	(5.80+2.50)/2	49.80	73,500
2	Arkavathi Layout 1st Block Jakkur	413	12.00	9.00	108.00	73,500
3	Anjanapura Layout 11th Block Kembhathalli	1332	8.60	12.00	103.20	84,000

The other terms and conditions remain the same. BDA regrets for the inconvenience.
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Engineer Member

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: EEE/PROJ/RCR/2026-27/80-81 Date: 07.05.2026

NOTIFICATION

KPTCL has formulated a scheme under section 28 and clause(e) of section 18 of the Indian Electricity Supply 1948 and the schemes are herewith published in pursuance of section 29(2) of the said act and also under the Electricity Supply Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of section 67 to be read with 67(ii), this notification is issued for information of the general public. Particulars of the schemes are as follows:
(1) Name of the Work: Establishing 2X20 MVA, 110/11kV, 1x20MVA 110/33kV sub-station at **Kadlur** village by constructing 110kV DC Line on DC Towers for a distance 18.156 kms from existing 110/33/11 kV Gugal sub-station with construction of Two Terminal Bays at existing Gugal sub-station in Raichur Taluk & District. **Salient Features:** This line is constructed for Transmitting 110kV power from existing 110/33/11kV Gugal sub-station to proposed 2X20 MVA, 110/11kV, 1x20MVA 110/33kV sub-station at Kadlur to avoid over loading and providing reliable and quality of power supply to Kadlur and surrounding villages. **A.** constructing 110kV DC Line on DC Towers for a distance 18.156kms from existing 110/33/11kV Gugal sub-station to proposed 110/33/11kV Kadlur sub-station. **The proposed 110kV Line passing through these areas (Villages) and Sy No's: Devadurga, Raichur Taluk & Raichur District.** [Taluk: **Devadurga** Hobli: **Gabbur**] **Gugal:** 94, 87, 85, 86, 40, 43, 38 **Chikkarayakumpi:** 30, 29,16,15, 17,14 **Hireraya Kumpi:** 300, 301, 302, 288, 287, 176, 175, 36, 35, 38, 39, 40, 27, 26, 25, 22, 23 **Madarakal:** 129, 130, 128, 124/2, 135, 122, 121, 118, 116, 115, 114, 170, 171, 175/1, 175/2, 177/1, 177/2, 178, 3/1, 4/1 **Aprala:** 116, 117, 71, 55, 54, 58, 59, 60, 61, 50, 46, 39, 45, 40 **Basavantapura:** 101, 85, 84, 86, 37, 38, 44, 40, 41, 42 [Taluk: **Devadurga** Hobli: **Devadurga**] **Arashinagi:** 316, 314, 315, 310, 309, 295, 296, 293, 292, 92, 76, 75, 66, 67, 65, 59, 60, 58, 56, 57, 45 [Taluk: **Raichur** Hobli: **Devasugur**] **Gurjapura:** 125, 134, 135, 133, 1, 2, 3(1), 4, 9, 8, 7, 5, 6 **Kadlur:** 8, 319, 318, 322, 325, 326, 332, 331, 345
Approved DPR Cost of the Project: Rs. 4652.09 Lakhs.
(2) Name of the Work: Establishment of 2X20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station at **Rampura** Area and Construction of 110kV LILO line from existing 110kV Raichur-Maliyabad Line for a distance of about 0.915 kms in Raichur Tq & Dist. **Salient Features:** This line is constructed for Transmitting 110kV power from existing 110kV Raichur-Maliyabad line to proposed Rampura area 2X20MVA, 110/11kV sub-station to avoid over loading and providing reliable and quality power supply to Rampura area,Raichur and surrounding villages. **The proposed 110kV Line passing through these areas (Village) and Sy No's: Raichur Taluk & District. a. Hosur:** 151, 152, 155, 160, 161, 154, 163, 164, 165, 168
Approved DPR cost of the project: Rs. 2365.98 Lakhs.
The corporation shall have and exercise all powers which the telegraph authorities possess under Para (iii) of Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (13 of 1885) for carrying of the above scheme. Objection or discrepancies to the scheme, if any should be sent to the Executive Engineer (Elec.,), Projects Division, KPTCL, Raichur within **01 month** from the date of publication of this notification for consideration by the corporation. Any objection received after this period will not be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elec), Projects Division, KPTCL, Raichur

UNIVERSITY OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES, BAGALKOT
Office of the Registrar Udyanagiri, Navanagar, Bagalkote-587104, Karnataka.
No.R/UHSB/Affiliation/136/2026-27 Date: 07.05.2026

REVISED NOTIFICATION

The University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot please to extend the date of submission of applications for affiliation of private Horticultural Colleges to offer Undergraduate courses in Horticulture from the Managements/Societies/Trusts registered under Societies Registration Act of Karnataka situated in the Jurisdiction of this University. The last date for submission of the filled application is extended upto 06.06.2026.
For further details, please refer the University website (https://uhsbagalkot.karnataka.gov.in/)

Sd/-REGISTRAR UHS, BAGALKOT
DIPR/BGK/RO-NO-30/KSMCA/2026-27

Directorate of Medical Education
BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Phone: 080-22870060 Fax: 080-22875798
E-mail: dmekarnataka@yahoo.com
No: ME/Tender/02/2026-27 Date: 08-05-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Tenders are invited for the **Purchase of CT SCAN 128 Slice Equipment for Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur.** Tender Document and E.M.D., details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPP Portal. Interested tenderers have to register in the KPP Portal, details of which can be viewed in the Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders Dt: 11-05-2026
Pre-Bid Meeting Dt: 18-05-2026 at 11.30 AM
Last date for Uploading the Tenders Dt: 10-06-2026 before 5.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Dt: 12-06-2026 at 11.30 AM

For further details contact **Director of Medical Education, BMC&RI (Old Building), 1st Floor, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.**

DIPR/CP/582/Adverto/2026-27
Sd/- Director Director of Medical Education, Bengaluru.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BHADRAVATHI
ನಂ.ನಸಭ/ಕಾವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಎಆರ್/11/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.05.2026

Annual Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Government e-procurement Portal)

Item-war Tenders have been invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 1999-2000 and Act 2000 and as per Karnataka Standard Tender Document – KG-3 procedures for the procurement of necessary materials of PVC and HDPE for the repairs of pipelines in the New Town and Old Town sections of Water Supply Department and other necessary materials for water supply for annual maintenance in the limits of City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi under Municipal Funds for the year 2025-26 & 2026-27. Eligible tenderers can participate through **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sl. No	Details	Approx Amount (Rs in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs)
1.	Supply of PVC and HDPE materials required for the repair of pipelines in New Town and Old Town sections of Water Supply Department and other materials required for water supply for annual maintenance.	60.00	120000/–

1.The last date for submission of tender through e-portal : **20.05.2026 upto 5.30 P M**
2.Date of opening of tender through online in e-procurement portal : **22.05.2026 after 11.00 AM.** If the above date happens to be a general holiday, the next day will be considered.
3.Regarding tender uploading, contact e-portal helpline No. : 080-22485867 or 080-25501216 and helpdesk email: **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**. For more details visit website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and at the office of the Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi/ Asst. Executive Engineer, City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi.
4.Any changes/corrigendum will be notified in e-portal only. The tenderers must abide by all the conditions prescribed in the tender documents.

Sd/-
Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Bhadravathi
DIPR/SMG/No.32.05/Zenkar/2026-27

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಘನತ್ಯಾಜ್ಯ ವಸ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–580029
ನಂ:ಎಚ್.ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಪಿ/74/05/2026–27/ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.05.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯು 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು, ಶಾಸಕರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಭವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇಎಂಡಿ (ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ
1	DMA/2026-27/IND6153/CALL-2	79,53,600.00	1,59,072.00	16–05–2026 ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ	18–05–2026 ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆ
2	DMA/2026-27/IND6249	15,00,000.00	37,500.00		
3	DMA/2026-27/SE7789	49,84,320.00	99,686.00		

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–05–2026** ರಿಂದ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಗೆ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ಆಗಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಳ ಸಹಿದಾರರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪರಿಸರ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/157/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION,
KALABURAGI, e-mail: midnglb@rediffmail.com / midnglb1@gmail.com,Ph.08472 - 220196
IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-3/2026-27/ 673 DATED : 06-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-1&4)

1) Detail of Work : THE EXEUCTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER 2025-26, 4702 A.P.B AND S.C.P. FOR THE YEAR 2025-26, 2) Amount of Estimate : Max. Rs. 244,38,475.95, Min. Rs.3,43,481.25, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-IV & Above, 4) Details of Tender Application Amount and EMD Amount : Tender Fee As Per KPP Portal E.M.D. Max. Rs. 3,66,600.00, Min. Rs. 4,300.00, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time : 14-05-2026 Upto 11.00 Hours, 6) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications : 19-05-2026 Upto 11.00 Hours 7) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders : 20-05-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : 21-05-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : 22-05-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours,10) Addl. information : Executive Engineer M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, 11) Address of KPP-Portal. : (https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in)

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/108/
Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLIS, Division No. 1, Mundargi, Gadag Dist.
Ph No. 08371-295016, e-mail: eeslis1mdg@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (CALL-2)
(ONLY THROUGH "KPP-Procurement" SYSTEM)

Reference : 1. This office Tender Notification No: 170 to 174 Dated: 07.05.2026
2. This office Tender Notification No: 175 Dated: 07.05.2026
3. This office Tender Notification No: 176 Dated: 07.05.2026
4. This office Tender Notification No: 177 Dated: 07.05.2026
5. This office Tender Notification No: 178 & 179 Dated: 07.05.2026

Tenders in Electronic mode are invited in KPP-Portal on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLIS Division No.1, Mundargi, Gadag District from the eligible Tenderers who are fulfilled the terms and conditions mentioned as in Tender Notifications cited at reference (1) to (4) above. The tender having Indent No. 4306, 4298, 4300, 4015 & 4307 are comes under General Category, Indent No. 4299 is reserved for Category-II(A), Indent No. 4270 is reserved for ST Category and Indent No. 4308 is reserved for Category-I Contractors. These tender invited under head of Account-2701. Further, Tender Notifications cited at reference (5) are invited under head of Account-4701 with Indent No. 4069 & 4202. (Note: All the Indent No's has /CALL-2 in KPP-Portal) Accordingly, The amount put to tender these works are varies from Rs. **3.54** Lakh to Rs. **183.45** Lakh (Including GST), and EMD amount varies from Rs. **7500/-** to Rs. **2.33** Lakh respectively.

Therefore, The bidders can access this tender in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website from **08.05.2026** and the last date of submission for the tender is **27.05.2026** and date of opening of Technical Bid **29.05.2026**. A Pre-bid meeting for Indent No. 4202 is held on **15.05.2026** at 11:45 AM in at Office of Executive Engineer, KNNL SLIS Division No.01 Mundaragi.

Further bidders are hereby by instructed to contact or visit the below mentioned office in working hours regarding Terms and Conditions of the tender and for furthermore information please contact KPP-Procurement Helpdesk Phone Numbers : **080-46010000, 080-68948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001**. Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL,
DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/57/2026-27 **SLIS Division No-1, Mundargi, Gadag (Dist)**

Health experts race to contain first ship-borne hantavirus outbreak

'Outbreak could be managed by adapting standard health measures'

LONDON, REUTERS

As the cruise ship hit by a hantavirus outbreak sails towards Tenerife, World Health Organization officials are racing to prepare step-by-step guidance for the nearly 150 passengers expected to disembark on Sunday.

The hantavirus outbreak — which has killed three people among at least eight suspected or confirmed infections — is the first ever recorded on a cruise ship, prompting the need for new health protocols.

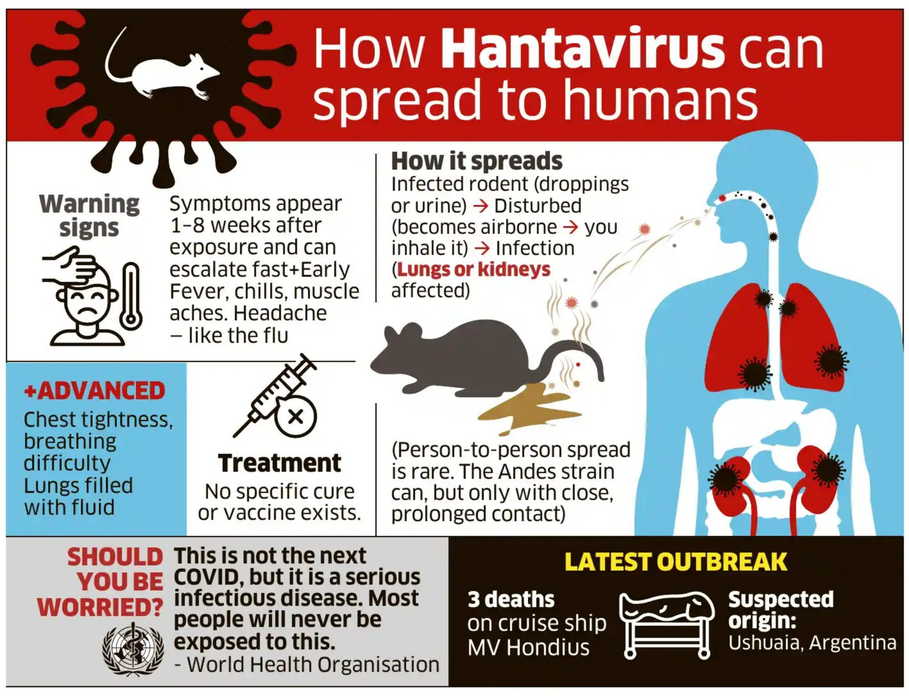
Half a dozen current and former WHO officials and hantavirus experts said the outbreak could be managed by adapting standard public health measures, including isolating infected passengers and monitoring those who may have come into contact with them. The ship's operator said none of the remaining passengers currently have symptoms.

Officials are also seeking guidance from Argentina, where an outbreak of the Andes virus — the same strain detected aboard the ship — was successfully contained in 2019.

"If we follow public health measures and the lessons we learned from Argentina, we can break this chain of transmission. This does not need to become a large epidemic," said Abdi Rahman Mahamud, director of the WHO's alert and response coordination department. He said the immediate focus was on isolating sick individuals and monitoring and quarantining other passengers.

According to the WHO, passengers are being categorised into high-risk and low-risk groups based on their interactions with infected travellers. Contact tracing is also considered crucial for passengers who have already left the vessel. The Andes hantavirus is known to spread through close and prolonged contact.

"We essentially learned that once basic social distancing measures were implemented — very simple measures such as staying home when unwell — transmission declined and the outbreak eventually burned out," said Gustavo Palacios of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.


How Hantavirus can spread to humans
Warning signs
Symptoms appear 1–8 weeks after exposure and can escalate fast+Early Fever, chills, muscle aches. Headache – like the flu
+ADVANCED
Chest tightness, breathing difficulty
Lungs filled with fluid
Treatment
No specific cure or vaccine exists.
How it spreads
Infected rodent (droppings or urine) → Disturbed (becomes airborne → you inhale it) → Infection (Lungs or kidneys affected)
(Person-to-person spread is rare. The Andes strain can, but only with close, prolonged contact)
SHOULD YOU BE WORRIED?
This is not the next COVID, but it is a serious infectious disease. Most people will never be exposed to this.
- World Health Organisation
LATEST OUTBREAK
3 deaths on cruise ship MV Hondius
Suspected origin: Ushuaia, Argentina

2 Indians aboard cruise ship with hantavirus cases

NEW DELHI/LONDON, PTI: Two Indian nationals currently aboard the Dutch vessel MV Hondius, where multiple probable cases of hantavirus infection have been reported, are asymptomatic and under observation in line with international health protocols, Union health ministry sources said on Friday.

The sources said information received through International Health Regulations channels indicated that the two Indians remained under observation, while the ministry continued close coordination with the World Health Organization and other international partners.

An official said the ministry was closely monitoring the evolving situation in coordination with the National Centre for Disease Control, the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme and other international health authorities.

The luxury cruise ship, operated by Oceanwide Expeditions, began its journey on April 1 from Ushuaia and is expected to arrive in Spain's Canary Islands on May 10.

SHIP SAILS TO SPAIN

- Spain has agreed to receive the cruise ship carrying 149 people from 23 countries
- MV Hondius is expected to arrive in Tenerife on Sunday at 3:30 pm IST
- The evacuees will be moved to the island's main airport, likely on sealed-off buses that will take them directly to the runway, where they will board their respective planes.

Among those aboard were 38 people from the Philippines, 31 from the UK, 23 from the US, 16 from the Netherlands, 14 from Spain, nine from Germany, six from Canada and two crew members from India.

The Union health ministry said necessary precautionary public health measures were being undertaken proactively to safeguard the health and well-being of Indian citizens.

Fresh clashes erupt near Strait of Hormuz despite ceasefire

US says it expects Iranian response to peace proposal

WASHINGTON/CAIRO, REUTERS

The US said it expected an Iranian response as early as Friday to its latest proposal to end the war in the Gulf, even as US and Iranian forces clashed near the Strait of Hormuz and the United Arab Emirates came under renewed attack.

Recent days have seen the biggest flare-ups in and around the contested Strait of Hormuz since a ceasefire began a month ago, despite the US and Iran signalling they were closer than ever to a deal to end the conflict. "We should know something today," Marco Rubio told reporters in Rome. "We're expecting a response from them. The hope is it's something that can put us into a serious process of negotiation."

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson said Tehran was still considering its response. Iran's semi-official Fars News Agency reported that sporadic clashes between Iranian armed forces and US vessels were taking place in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday.

Iranian vessels disabled

The US military said it had struck two more Iran-linked vessels attempting to enter an Iranian port. A US fighter jet reportedly hit the vessels' smokestacks and prevented them from entering Iranian waters. The US military posted video of the two Iranian tankers as their smokestacks were struck by an American fighter jet on Friday.

Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned what it called "hostile" US military action, saying it violated the ceasefire. "Every time a diplomatic solution is on the table, the US opts for a reckless military adventure," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi posted on X.

Earlier in the week, an American military jet shot out the rudder of a tanker the US military said was attempting to breach its blockade. Late Thursday, the US military said it thwarted Iranian attacks on three Navy ships in the Strait of Hormuz and struck Iranian military facilities. It said no American ships were hit. "They threaten Americans, they are going to be blown up," Rubio told reporters Friday.

US federal court rules against new Trump tariffs

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: A federal court has ruled against the new global tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump following a major setback for his administration at the Supreme Court.

A split three-judge panel of the Court of International Trade in New York ruled on Thursday that the 10 per cent global tariffs were illegal after a lawsuit filed by small businesses. The court ruled 2-1 that Trump had overstepped the tariff authority granted to the president by Congress under the law. The tariffs were "invalid" and "unauthorised by law", the majority wrote.

The third judge on the panel said the law gave the president authority on tariffs. If the administration appeals Thursday's ruling, as expected, the case would first go to the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington and could eventually reach the Supreme Court.

China admits backing Pak during clash with India

BEIJING, PTI

China has, for the first time, confirmed that it provided on-site technical support to Pakistan during the four-day conflict with India last year, according to official media reports.

China's state broadcaster China Central Television aired an interview on Thursday with Zhang Heng, an engineer at the Chengdu Aircraft Design and Research Institute under the Aviation Industry Corporation of China.

According to the South China Morning Post, quoting CCTV, Zhang provided technical support to Pakistan during the four-day conflict in May last year. Pakistan's air force operates Chinese-made J-10CE fighter jets produced by an AVIC subsidiary. "At the support base, we frequently heard the roar of fighter jets taking off and the constant wail of air-raid sirens. By late morning in May, the temperature was already approaching 50 degrees Celsius. It was a real ordeal for us, both mentally and physically," Zhang said.

He said his team was driven by the "desire to do an even better job with on-site support" and to ensure the equipment could "truly perform at its full combat potential". "That wasn't just recognition of the J-10CE; it was also a testament to the deep bond we formed through working side by side," he added. Chinese foreign ministry and military officials had previously either dismissed or downplayed allegations that Beijing supported Pakistan during the conflict.

Trump announces ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia

WASHINGTON, REUTERS/AFP: US President Donald Trump announced on Friday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to observe a three-day truce from May 9 to May 11.

Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of violating ceasefires separately declared during the war. In a post on Truth Social, Trump said the truce would include a suspension of all kinetic activity as well as a prisoner exchange involving 1,000 prisoners from each side.

"Hopefully, it is the beginning of the end of a very long, deadly and hard-fought war," Trump wrote, adding that talks aimed at ending the conflict were progressing. Trump said the ceasefire would take effect on Saturday and continue through Sunday and Monday. Russia had earlier announced a two-day ceasefire to mark its May 9 Victory Day event marking the Soviet victory in World War II.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX NETWORK
Corporate Office: East Wing - 4th Floor, Worldmark-1, Aerocity, New Delhi - 110037
Tel: 011-49111200 www.gstn.org.in

Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) is a Section 8, Not-for-profit, 100% Government owned company, incorporated in March 2013 to provide IT infrastructure and services to the central & state governments, taxpayers and other stakeholders for implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. GSTN is responsible for development & running of the common portal for GST compliance. The company wishes to hire a senior management position based in **New Delhi.** For the detailed job description & other relevant information, please visit **https://gstn.org.in/gstn-openings**

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT (FINANCE)

The Senior Vice President (Finance) is responsible for overseeing the financial resource management for GSTN. The role holder would also be overseeing the compliance with all statutory and policy requirements, continuously monitoring reporting on all aspects of financial management, accounting and providing inputs for financial decisions related to organization's short and long-term strategy.

AGE:

i) 56 years or lower for serving Government officers as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

ii) Maximum 45 years for private sector employees as on the closing date of receipt of applications.

Work Experience:

- **For Candidates from the Private Sector:** Minimum work experience of **15-18 years** in an organisation specialising in large scale IT transaction processing in financial services/government/PSU sector serving a large cross-section of retail and business users, of which at least **5 (five) years** should have been spent as part of top management team. The candidate must possess a degree in **MBA** (Finance) from a recognized institutions/**CA.**
- **For Government and PSU Employees**: All India Services/Central Services/Central PSU officers with minimum 13 years of service experience in Group A Level and holding analogous posts at Level 13 or having five years' experience in Level 12 on regular basis in the parent cadre or department.

Instructions to Apply:

- **For Private sector candidates:** Application consisting of a cover letter and up-to-date resume should be sent to **careers@gstn.org.in by 8th June, 2026.**
- **For Government and PSU Employees:** Applications consisting of a cover letter and up-to-date resume should be sent to **careers@gstn.org.in** by **8th June, 2026.** The applications should also be received through proper channel along with Cadre Clearance, Vigilance Clearance and APARs for the last five years for the candidature to be considered. However, an advance copy may be sent by the applicant to GSTN on **careers@gstn.org.in**

To know full details, please visit 'career section' of www.gstn.org.in

CBC 15319/12/0009/2627

LOOKING FOR JOB OPPORTUNITY — Refer Classifieds on Wednesday

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTRN RAILWAY, MYSURU DIVISON, MYSURU)
NOTIFICATION

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (herein after referred to as the said Act), the central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose. The brief description of the land which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto is required for the execution of the Special railway project, in lieu of Level crossing No. 82, between Karadi - Tiptur Railway Stations in Tiptur Town (Bandihalli Gate) for construction of RUB in the State of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section(1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru for ROB / RUB's in lieu of Level crossing No. 82, between Karadi - Tiptur Railway Stations in Tiptur Town (Bandihalli Gate) in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20 D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Special Railway Project of RUB Construction in lieu of Level crossing No. 82, between Karadi - Tiptur Railway Stations in Tiptur Town (Bandihalli Gate) in the State of Karnataka.

DISTRICT: TUMAKURU **HOBLI:** KASABA
TALUK: TIPTUR, **VILLAGE / TOWN:** TIPTUR

Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Name of Land Owner	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas)				Classification of land
			Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	
1	109	S.S. Rudraiah S/O Shankarappa Vivekananda S/O S.S. Rudraiah (joint)	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	N.A.K.,
2	110/1	Mangala T.M. W/O Mruthyunjaya C.B., T.M. Anupama D/O T.M. Manjunatha (Joint)	0-05 1/2	-	-	0-05 1/2	Dry
3	111/1A	Manjula W/O Jayanna	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry
4	111/1C1	N.Kumar S/O Nanjappa, T.G. Nagaraju S/O Gurappa, B.S. Basavaraju S/O Shivanna, Kumar Swamy S/O Basavaraju	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Dry
5	111/1C2	B.S. Channegowda S/O Late Nanjappa	0-02 1/2	-	-	0-02 1/2	N.A.K.
6	111/1B	Chandramma Father Ningappa	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	Dry
7	112/1	Kamala W/O B.N. Shankarappa	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	Dry
8	112/2B	Nanjamma W/O Mariyappa, Shivanna, T. Siddalingaiah and T. Nanjaiah (Joint) Leelamma urf Neelamma W/O Shivananda K	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
9	129/1A1	M.R. Dinesh Babu S/O M.S. Ramalingappa	0-03	-	-	0-03	Dry
10	129/2A	B.N. Padmakshamma D/O B Narayanarao, B.S. Gururaj S/O Srinivasamurthy (Joint)	0-03 3/4	-	-	0-03 3/4	N.A.K.
11	129/6	Vijaya Kumari W/O Late Basavaraju	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	N.A.K.
12	129/5	T.C. Ananda S/O Late Chandrappa	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	N.A.K.
13	129/4	Yashodamma W/O Late Mahadevappa	0-01 1/2	-	-	0-01 1/2	Dry
14	129/8	Yashodamma W/O Late Mahadevappa	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
		Total	**0-27 1/4**	**-**	**-**	**0-27 1/4**	**-**

ABSTRACT

N.A.K.	DRY	KHARAB	TOTAL
0-09 3/4	0-17 1/2	-	0-27 1/4

Sd/-
Special Land Acqusition Officer & Competent Authority
Special Railway Project, Tumakuru

PUB/107/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY (OPEN LINE))
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, 30th April 2026

S.O.2161(E).—In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Central Government hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column(4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the Officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for public purpose of Execution, Maintenance, Management and Operation of such Special Railway Project.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	2	3	4	5
1	**Sampige Road - Arsikere Section:** Proposed Construction of RUB at km. 114/300-400 in lieu of LC No. 67 between Ammasandra - Banasandra Stations.	D Hosahalli Heggere Lingapura (Villages) Turuvekere (Taluk) Tumkur (District)	Special land acquisition officer, Tumkur - Rayadurga Railway Project, Tumkur.	Regional Commissioner, Bangalore.
2	**Sampige Road - Arsikere Section:** Proposed construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 72 at km. 122/500-600 between Banasandra - Kardi Stations.	A Hoshalli (Village) Turuvekere (Taluk) Tumkur (District)		

No. Y/W. 277/Land/RUB(67&72)/TTR

Sd/-
CHANNO MAL GUPTA
Principal Chief Engineer

PUB/106/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Hubballi, the 23rd April, 2026

Notice under Section 20A of the Railways Act-,1989 (Amendment Act, 2008)

S.O. 2120(E) .- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub- Section (1) of Section 20A of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the Schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special Railway Project, namely. "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No.112 at Km: 273/100-200 between Kamasamudram and Bisanattam stations (Kamasamdram village, Bangarpet taluk, Kolar district)" in the State of Karnataka, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land:

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the competent authority, namely, Incharge Land Acquisition Officer ie Assistant Commissioner Kolar and Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru for "Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No.112 at Km: 273/100-200 between Kamasamudram and Bisanattam stations (Kamasamdram village, Bangarpet taluk , Kolar district)" in the State of Karnataka" in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the competent authority.

Schedule

SL NO.	Name of the Village	Survey Nos.	Part	Area in A-G-A	Area in Hectare
1	Kamasamudram	33	33/*/xx	0-1-2	0.0111731
			33/*/2	0-1-10	0.0063245
2	Kamasamudram	39	39/*/2A	0-4-8	0.0356061
3	Kamasamudram	40	40/*/2	0-0-4	0.002599
4	Kamasamudram	28	28/*/2	0-1-5	0.013012
5	Kamasamudram	85	26/*/*	0-9-7	0.09011
TOTAL				**0-18-4**	**0.1588247**

[F. No. SWR/W352/RSP/Land-112/2026]

For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in

Ningappa Chandappa Chaluvadi
Deputy Chief Engineer / Road over Bridge, South Western Railway

PUB/100/AAS/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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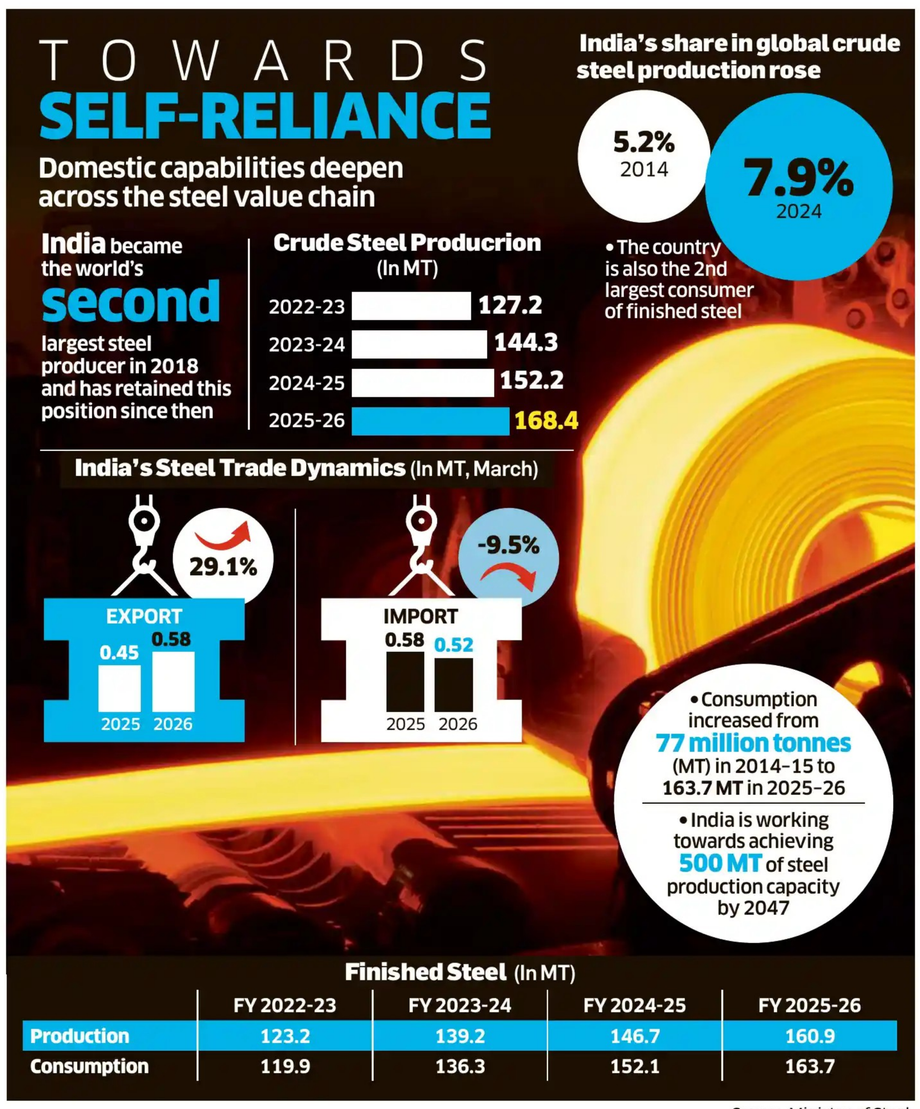

TOWARDS
SELF-RELIANCE
Domestic capabilities deepen across the steel value chain
India became the world's second largest steel producer in 2018 and has retained this position since then
Crude Steel Producrion (In MT)
2022-23 127.2
2023-24 144.3
2024-25 152.2
2025-26 168.4
India's share in global crude steel production rose
5.2% 2014
7.9% 2024
• The country is also the 2nd largest consumer of finished steel
India's Steel Trade Dynamics (In MT, March)
EXPORT 29.1%
0.45 0.58
2025 2026
IMPORT -9.5%
0.58 0.52
2025 2026
• Consumption increased from 77 million tonnes (MT) in 2014-15 to 163.7 MT in 2025-26
• India is working towards achieving 500 MT of steel production capacity by 2047
Finished Steel (In MT)
FY 2022-23 FY 2023-24 FY 2024-25 FY 2025-26
Production 123.2 139.2 146.7 160.9
Consumption 119.9 136.3 152.1 163.7

Source: Ministry of Steel

SBI Q4 net profit rises 6% to Rs 19,684 crore

Gross NPAs decline to 1.49% of total advances

NEW DELHI, PTI

State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday reported a 6% increase in standalone net profit at Rs 19,684 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2026, aided by decline in bad loans.

The country's biggest lender had earned a profit of Rs 18,643 crore in the January-March period of 2024-25 fiscal year.

However, total income declined to Rs 1,40,412 crore in the March quarter from Rs 1,43,876 crore in the same period a year ago, SBI said in a regulatory filing.

During the quarter, the bank earned an interest income of Rs 1,23,098 crore, as against Rs 1,19,666 crore a year ago.

The bank saw an improvement in asset quality, with gross non-performing assets (NPAs) declining to 1.49% of the total advances in the fourth quarter from 1.82% as at March-end 2025. Similarly, net NPAs eased to 0.39% from 0.47%.

On a consolidated basis, SBI's net profit in the quarter rose marginally to Rs 19,643 crore, from Rs 19,600 crore a year ago. Total income increased to Rs 1,81,079 crore from Rs 1,79,562 crore.

For the entire financial year 2025-26, the bank reported 13% increase in profit on a standalone basis at Rs 80,032 crore, as against Rs 70,901 crore in the previous year.

The bank's board has declared a dividend of Rs 17.35 per equity share of face value of Re 1 per unit for FY26.

The record date for determining the eligibility of members entitled to receive dividend on equity shares is May 16 and dividend payment date is June 4, it said.

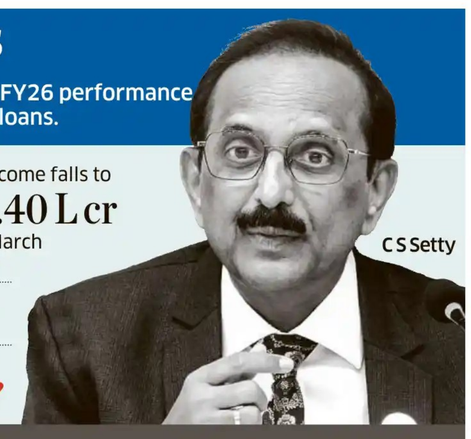
Meanwhile, shares of SBI on Friday dived nearly 7% after its March quarter earnings failed to cheer investors.

The stock dropped 6.62% to settle at Rs 1,019.55 on the BSE. During the day, it tanked 7.37% to Rs 1,011.30.

At the NSE, the SBI stock fell by 6.65% to end at Rs 1,019.30.

EARNINGS HIGHLIGHTS

State Bank of India reported a mixed Q4 FY26 performance with higher annual profit and lower bad loans.



C S Setty

Bank earns **Rs 1.23 L cr** as interest income in Q4 FY26

Total income falls to **Rs 1.40 L cr** in the March quarter

13% FY26 annual profit rises to **Rs 80,032 crore**

Announces a **Rs 17.35** per share dividend

SBI stock falls nearly **7%** after results

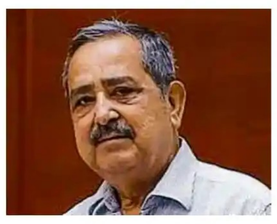
SBI for review of affordable home definition

State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday sought a review of the affordable home definition, citing a sharp increase in its average home loan size in the recent past.

SBI Chairman C S Setty said the bank, which has the highest market share in the highly competitive affordable housing segment, has seen the average loan size increase to Rs 51 lakh now, compared to around Rs 35-40 lakh two years ago. "...the definition of affordable homes is required to be changed. This is what we have been telling the government of India," Setty said.

He said the cost of housing is going up in the country, and hence, we need to revisit what qualifies as an affordable home.

Biz Bytes



Lahiri becomes Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog

NEW DELHI, PTI: Renowned economist Ashok Kumar Lahiri on Friday took charge as the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog.

Lahiri replaced Suman Bery.

Lahiri is a former chief economic advisor to the Government of India and a member of the 15th Finance Commission.

"His experience across academia, public institutions and international organisations will further strengthen NITI Aayog's efforts towards evidence-based policymaking and economic transformation," NITI Aayog said in a post on X.

Rupee closes with 71 paise gain against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee pared its losses and ended with a sharp gain of 71 paise at 93.51 against the US dollar on Friday, amid a volatile situation in West Asia, triggering concerns over energy supplies.

Brent prices, which had fallen to $98 per barrel amid the US-Iran peace deal, edged higher to around $100 as investors weighed prospects for a peace deal. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 97.91, down 0.15%.

Google eyeing AI investments in India: Min

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Google is exploring new investments in India focused on AI infrastructure and the local manufacture of servers and drones, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

"Google is exploring investments in India across AI infrastructure and the manufacturing of servers and drones," Vaishnaw posted on X, after meeting company executives.

The announcement highlights Google's expanding footprint in the country and follows the company's groundbreaking ceremony last month for its $15 billion India AI Hub in Visakhapatnam on April 28.

'Over 25% casual workers in India earn below minimum wages'

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

One in every four casual workers in India are paid below the statutory minimum wages, which indicates significant gaps in wage enforcement and labour protection, SBI Research said on Friday.

There is also a substantial interstate disparity in the minimum wage compliance. Over 70% of casual workers in Chhattisgarh are paid less than the statutory minimum wages. Odisha (66%) and Jharkhand (65%) are among the worst states in minimum wage enforcement.

Maharashtra and West Bengal also have nearly one-third of casual workers receiving wages below the mandated minimum wage. In Karnataka, at least one in every five casual workers earn below the minimum wages.

Widespread worker protests were witnessed recently in different parts of the country, including Noida in Uttar Pradesh; Barauni in Bihar; Panipat, Faridabad and Manesar in Haryana; and Surat in Gujarat, demanding higher wages and improvement in working conditions.

To calm the protests, the governments of UP and Haryana have announced significant increases in minimum wages. SBI Research data indicates that compliance is a major challenge as a substantial number of labourers are not paid even the minimum wages that are in place.

The situation is worse for women. Female workers constitute 45% of all underpaid casual workers, despite representing only 25% of the casual workforce, while male workers account for 55% of unpaid workers, while forming 75% of the workforce, indicating substantial gender disparity in minimum wage compliance.

To estimate the extent of minimum wage violations among casual workers, SBI Research said it has employed a logistic regression model using the unit-level data merged with the state-wise minimum wage rates as of 2022 obtained from Chief Labour Commissioner (Central).

The report noted that 80-90% of the workforce in India is engaged in informal employment. Punjab has the highest share of informal workers at 82%, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at 81% each.

The SBI Research report notes that 80-90% of the workforce in India is engaged in informal employment. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

Titan Q4 net climbs 35.4% to Rs 1,179 cr

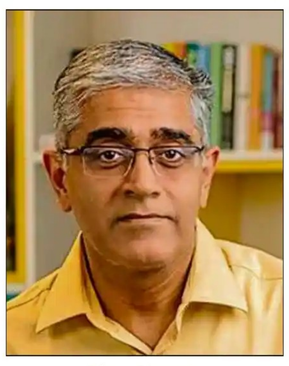
Revenue from watches, wearables rises 7.8%

NEW DELHI, PTI

Leading jewellery and watchmaker Titan on Friday reported a 35.36% increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,179 crore for the March quarter of FY26.

The company posted a net profit of Rs 871 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, according to a regulatory filing. Its sales surged 48.28% to Rs 20,607 crore in the March quarter of FY26, which, according to Titan, is "one of the strongest quarterly performances in the company's history".

During the quarter, Titan's jewellery business revenue increased 88.6% to Rs 24,999 crore, recording "another exceptional quarter" growth over the last year.



Ajoy Chawla

"Consumer confidence in gold as both an adornment and a store of value remained intact (despite record high prices and volatility in the quarter), translating into healthy buyer engagement," Titan said in its earnings statement.

Income of the Jewellery Division's India business rose 46% to Rs 17,114 crore, Titan said. Its three jewellery brands — Tanishq, Mia and Zaya — grew 48% to Rs 16,047 crore.

While sales from Caratlane, a brand selling contemporary, affordable, and everyday-wear jewellery, in which Titan acquired a 98% stake in 2023, recorded 22% growth to Rs 1,066 crore, its international jewellery business grew nearly threefold to Rs 1,081 crore.

Titan's revenue from watches and wearables rose 7.76% to Rs 1,222 crore in Q4 FY26. The growth in the segment was led by analogue watches.

Smart watches dip

However, the volume of smart watches declined by 50% in overall value, which was partially offset by an improvement in average price realisations.

In the March quarter, total expenses jumped 85.16% to Rs 25,579 crore.

Titan's total consolidated income, which includes other income, climbed 80.3% to Rs 27,104 crore in Q4 FY26.

For the entire FY26, Titan's profit surged 52% to Rs 5,073 crore. It was Rs 3,337 crore a year ago.

"We had crossed the Rs 50,000 crore annual revenue milestone in FY25 after nearly 40 years. The next Rs 25,000 crore has been remarkably achieved in a single year of FY26," Titan Company Ltd Managing Director Ajoy Chawla said.

Air India resorts to cost-cutting ways amid 'tough times'

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, PTI: Hit hard by Pakistan airspace closure and Iran war, Air India has resorted to cost-cutting measures, including holding back annual increments for staff and asking them to cut discretionary spending as well as non-critical expenditures, warning of "tough times".

On Friday, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson told staff it is going to be a "very, very difficult year" if things don't improve on the West Asia front.

A day after the loss-making airline's board discussed various cost-saving steps, Wilson, along with CFO Sanjay Sharma and CHRO Ravindra Kumar GP, addressed the employees during a townhall on Friday, where the emphasis was on the need to keep a close watch on costs.

With higher jet fuel prices due to the West Asia conflict and airspace curbs, the airline's expenses have spiralled in recent times, and Sharma also told staff that FY26 has seen a softening in revenue amid heightened external uncertainties.

Calling for a relentless focus on costs in these tough times, Wilson urged employees to suspend discretionary spending, renegotiate rates where feasible, and defer non-critical expenditures.

"There must be a laser-sharp focus on eliminating wastage and leakages," he said.

Stressing the need to tighten the belt for a while, Wilson sounded optimistic that travel demand would rebound and the industry would continue on its upward path.

Ravindra Kumar told staff that the airline will proceed with variable pay for the last financial year and continue with planned promotions, while noting that annual increments will be deferred by at least one quarter. "We don't anticipate layoffs," he said.

Biocon registers net profit rise of 5% in fourth quarter at Rs 126 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS: Biopharmaceuticals major Biocon Limited on Friday reported a 5% rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 126 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2026. In the same period last year, the company reported a net profit of Rs 120 crore. Its total revenue for the quarter stood at Rs 4,569 crore, a growth of 10% over the same period last year.

The Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of Re 0.50 per share at the rate of 10% of the face value of the share, for the financial year ending March 31, 2026.

"Biocon closed FY26 on a strong note, despite a complex geopolitical environment. We delivered margin expansion along with 13% YoY growth in operating revenue, excluding the one-time impact of generic lenalidomide sales last year. This performance reflects the resilience of our business and disciplined execution through a pivotal year of integration," Biocon Limited Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw said.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

For the full year ended March 2026, Biocon's net profit grew 323% to Rs 436 crore and the total income went up 14% to Rs 17,270 crore.

"FY26 was a pivotal year for Biocon, marked by the successful integration of our biosimilars and generics business to create one unified biopharmaceutical enterprise with greater scale, capability, and reach," Biocon Limited CEO and MD Shreehas Tambe said.

CORPORATE SCORECARD

Swiggy Q4 net loss narrows to Rs 800 cr

▸ Bengaluru, DHNS: Swiggy on Friday posted a narrowing of consolidated net loss to Rs 800 crore for the quarter ended March 2026. It had reported a loss of Rs 1,081 crore in the year-ago period. Its revenue in the fourth quarter stood at Rs 6,383 crore, a 45% increase compared to Rs 4,410 crore in the same quarter last year.

Swiggy's Food Delivery business GOV (gross order value) growth accelerated to 22.6% YoY, to Rs 9,005 crore.

"Food delivery has grown at its strongest pace in nearly four years, crossing Rs 1,000 crore in annual adjusted EBITDA and defying scepticism around a sector slowdown, with meaningfully better margins than a year ago. Out of home continues to be a profitable and growing part of the business," said Sriharsha Majety, MD and Group CEO, Swiggy.

"In quick commerce, the next phase will be defined by anticipating consumer needs, not merely fulfilling them. Unit economics continue to improve quarter on quarter, and we remain on track for contribution margin break even in line with our guidance," he added.

HMIL Q4 profit declines 22.2%

▸ New Delhi, PTI: Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) on Friday reported a 22.22% decline in consolidated profit after tax to Rs 1,255.63 crore in the March quarter, impacted by higher commodity prices, unfavourable product mix and costs associated with capacity stabilisation.

The company had posted a consolidated PAT of Rs 1,614.35 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, HMIL said in a filing.

Consolidated total revenue from operations stood at Rs 18,916.15 crore, as against Rs 17,940.28 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Total expenses were higher at Rs 17,571.66 crore, compared to Rs 15,974.46 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, HMIL said.

Overall vehicle sales in Q4 stood at 2,08,275 units, compared to 1,91,650 units in the year-ago period, up 8.7 per cent, HMIL said in an investor presentation.

BoB profit rises 11% to Rs 5,616 cr in Q4

▸ New Delhi, PTI: Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Friday reported an 11% rise in profit to Rs 5,616 crore during the March quarter.

The PSB had earned a net profit of Rs 5,048 crore in the year-ago period.

During the quarter, the bank's total income increased to Rs 36,609 crore, from Rs 35,852 crore a year ago, BoB said in a regulatory filing.

The bank's interest income grew to Rs 32,642 crore, from Rs 30,642 crore in the fourth quarter of the previous financial year.

At the same time, Net Interest Income in the quarter also rose to Rs 12,494 crore, from Rs 11,020 crore in the same period a year ago.

On the asset quality front, the bank's gross NPAs moderated to 1.89% of gross advances, compared to 2.26% by the end of March 2025.

ABB India net falls 25% to Rs 342 cr

▸ New Delhi, PTI: Electrification and automation major ABB India on Friday reported over 25% decline in its net profit to Rs 342 crore for the March quarter.

The net profit stood at Rs 457 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2025, a statement said. The company follows a January to December fiscal year.

According to the statement, the company reported a PBT of Rs 462 crore for the quarter.

The company explained that profitability was impacted by an adverse revenue mix, execution of lower-margin orders, and elevated input costs amid forex volatility and slower project execution.

Revenue for the quarter rose 6% to Rs 3,184 crore, compared to the first quarter of the last year (Rs 3,010 crore in January-March 2025).

Tata Consumer Q4 profit rises 22%

▸ New Delhi, PTI: Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Friday reported a 21.6% increase in its consolidated net profit to Rs 424.02 crore in the March quarter of FY26, led by volume growth from domestic business.

The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 348.72 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, the Tata group's FMCG arm said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations rose by 18% to Rs 5,433.62 crore in the March quarter of FY26. It was at Rs 4,608.22 crore in the year-ago period.

Total expenses of TCPL in the March quarter were at Rs 4,844.81 crore, up 15.9%. Tata Consumer's total income, which includes other income, was at Rs 5,486.18 crore, up 17.6%.

In the reporting quarter, TCPL's overall branded business went up 14.9% to Rs 4,746 crore. It was at Rs 4,130.4 crore in the corresponding quarter last fiscal.

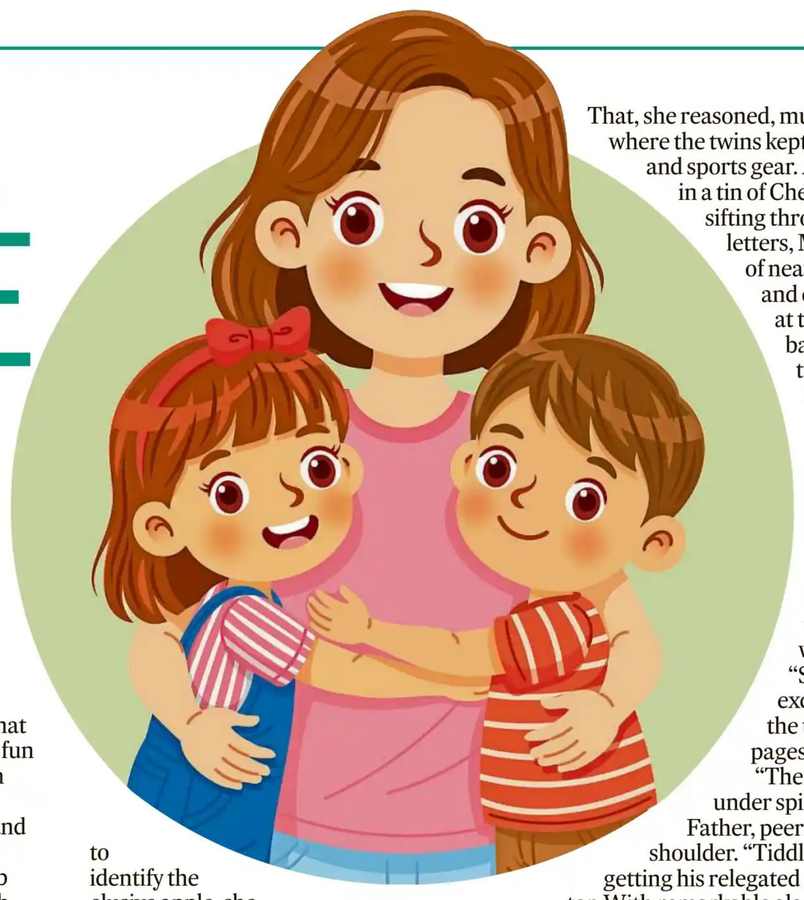
Kalyan Jewellers net rises in Q4

▸ New Delhi, PTI: Kalyan Jewellers India Ltd on Friday reported more than two-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 409.50 crore in the fourth quarter of 2025-26 fiscal, citing higher income.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 187.6 crore in the year-ago period. Total income for the January-March quarter surged 66% to Rs 10,321.1 crore from Rs 6,222.3 crore a year earlier.

The trail to the TREASURE

Ashwin and Ashwini plan a surprise for their mother. Suryakumari Dennison tells you how it turns out



"I have something in mind for Mother's Day," said Ashwin to Ashwini. "You know how Mummy is fond of proverbs, which are quite unappealing."

Ashwini nodded. "I can't stand that one about the early bird catching the worm," she said. "As someone once pointed out, the poor worm was early, too!"

"What can't be cured must be endured," said her twin, with a grimace. "True, perhaps, but rather unpleasant. And how can knowledge, however little, possibly be dangerous?"

"Mummy quoted that when we used a search engine to fix a gas leak," said Ashwini, giggling. "If you recall, we nearly blew up the house. Anyway," she continued, as Ashwin chuckled, "what shall we do on Mother's Day?"

"How about a treasure hunt?" suggested Ashwin. "The clues will be proverbs, one leading to another until Mummy finds the prize."

"Wonderful, Ashwin!" said Ashwini warmly. "Let's get started. After all, proliferation is the thief of time?"

"Procrastination," Ashwin corrected her, smiling. "An unnecessarily big word when postponement would do as well. That gives me an idea," he added. "It might be fun to tweak the proverbs, even change them around."

When Mother's Day arrived, Ashwin and Ashwini informed their mother that she would be the sole participant in a proverb quest. Their father was welcome to watch and cheer her on, but could not offer assistance. "This is the first clue, Mummy," announced the twins. "An apple today may be hidden away."

Mother lunged for a bowl on the dining table, sending fruits flying. In her eagerness to identify the elusive apple, she stepped heavily on a fallen mango, leaving a splotch on the floor. She suddenly realised that 'may be' meant that the apple need not be concealed. Sure enough, it sat openly on the fridge, atop the second clue.

"All work, all play," Mother read aloud. That, she reasoned, must be the place where the twins kept their board games and sports gear. After rummaging in a tin of Chess pieces and sifting through Scrabble letters, Mother upset a pile of neatly stacked cards and dice. As she tugged at the closet doors, balls and racquets tumbled out. The room looked tornado-struck by the time she figured out the catch in the clue.

"All work," she muttered, so 'play' could refer to a dramatist whom the children were studying.

"Shakespeare!" she exclaimed, and found the third clue within the pages of 'Julius Caesar'.

"There's some use trying under spilt milk," announced Father, peering over his wife's shoulder. "Tiddles!" he yelled, forgetting his relegated role of silent spectator. With remarkable alacrity, Mother raced to the kitchen, where the family's plump and pampered cat usually sloshed liquid food about, in the complacent assurance that supplies would be replenished. As Mother reached for the fourth clue beneath the bowl, Tiddles charged forward, causing her to upset the dish. Milk flowed freely over the paper, which bore the next link in the chain. As Mother struggled to retrieve it, Tiddles, far from crying over spilt milk, lapped it up joyfully.

"A bird in hand ____" began Mother. "I can't make out the rest," she complained, "but it must be related to Polly."

Ashwin and Ashwini roared with laughter as Mother opened Polly's cage and reached for the sleeping parrot. Enraged at this impolite intrusion, Polly flew out and perched on a pelmet.

"You missed the second half," said the children, as their mother searched frantically for a stepladder. "A bird in hand is worth less than its stand."

The clue was clearly visible on a wooden structure on which the cage rested. "Pride shows before a wall," Mother repeated to herself, shaking her head in perplexity.

Ashwin and Ashwini exchanged glances, wondering whether she would decode their last, most challenging clue. "Both of you enjoy puns," said Mother, "so 'pride' here is not arrogance, but ____" Breaking off, she dashed to the drawing room. There hung a painting the family had acquired on a trip to Gir National Park. "A pride of lions," declared Mother triumphantly, pouncing on the treasure behind the picture, a book coupon.

"I felt rather left out," grumbled Father. "Ashwin and Ashwini, you must come up with an equally exciting event for my special day next month. Necessity, after all, is the mother — or should I say, father... of invention!"

5 animated FILMS on motherhood

These movies talk about sacrifice, devotion, and unconditional love

Punyakoti

This 2020 film, directed by Ravishankar Venkateswaran, is based on the well-known Kannada folktale about a truthful cow named Punyakoti. When she encounters a hungry tiger in the forest while grazing, she pleads with him to let her return home one last time so she can feed and comfort her calf. Promising to come back afterwards, Punyakoti returns to her village, spends time with her calf, and ultimately keeps her word by going back to the tiger. The story's core lies in the cow's maternal devotion, honesty, and sense of responsibility. Punyakoti is recognised as India's first full-length Sanskrit animated feature film.

Over the Moon

This 2020 film, directed by Glen Keane, follows Fei Fei, a young girl who is grieving the loss of her mother. Determined to prove that the Moon goddess Chang'e is real, she builds a rocket and embarks on a magical journey. At the film's core is how the central character holds on to memories of her mother and learns to heal after loss. The film was nominated for both the Academy Award and the Golden Globe for Best Animated Feature Film.

The Breadwinner

Set in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, this 2017 film, directed by Nora Twomey, follows Parvana, an 11-year-old girl who disguises herself as a boy to support her family after her father is imprisoned. While the story is centred on survival and courage, the emotional bond between Parvana and her mother anchors the film, becoming a moving portrait of maternal resilience during hardship. It won the Annie Award for Best Independent Animated Feature- Independent.

Brave

Directed by Mark Andrews and Brenda Chapman, Brave, unlike many fairy-tale adventures, focuses on the complicated relationship between Princess Merida and her mother, Queen Elinor. A magical mishap forces the two to better understand each other, turning the film into a heartfelt exploration of mothers and daughters, communication, and forgiveness. Released in 2012, the film won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature and the Golden Globe for Best Animated Feature Film.

Wolf Children

This 2012 Japanese animated film, directed by Mamoru Hosoda, follows Hana, a young woman who falls in love with a man who can transform into a wolf. After his sudden death, Hana is left to raise their two young children, Ame and Yuki, who inherit the same ability. Hoping to protect them from society and give them the freedom to understand who they truly are, she moves with them to a quiet countryside village. The film explores motherhood, sacrifice, identity, and unconditional love through Hana's struggles and resilience as a single parent. It won the Japan Academy Prize for Animation of the Year in 2013.

sardonic

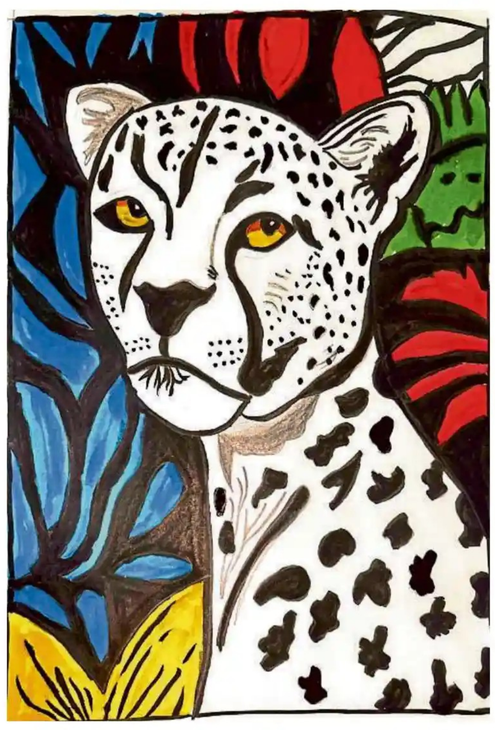
(adjective)
— showing that you think that you are better than other people and do not take them seriously

Usage
— The old professor listened to the excuses with sardonic patience.
— The journalist's column was filled with sardonic observations about modern politics.

What's inside my head...

Open Sesame readers share their art

On April 25, *Open Sesame* asked its young readers to send in their artworks. Soon, we were flooded with entries from across the country. Many paintings were good, but we can only publish a few because of space constraints. Don't let that discourage you. Get creative and keep writing and painting, and stand a chance to be featured in an upcoming edition! Send your entries to: *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*

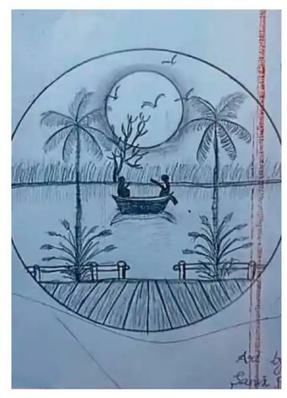


MAYUKH M G, 12
Bengaluru, Karnataka

CHINMAYI G S, 9
Mysuru, Karnataka

SHAARVI S, 7
Bengaluru, Karnataka

SANVI P JOGIN, 14
Yadgir, Karnataka



POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'If I could change one thing' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Entries close on May 28. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

This Week:

First fight for freedom

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On May 10, 1857, Indian soldiers in the army of the East India Company revolted against their British officers. Which military cantonment, northeast of Delhi, was the scene of that uprising?

Q2 Bahadur Shah II, proclaimed Emperor of India in the summer of 1857, was tried for treason by the British. What significant site was the venue of his trial?

Q3 In 1857, the Indian revolutionary forces seized control of Lucknow. Who declared her young son, Prince Birjis Qadr, the ruler of Awadh, and assumed power on his behalf?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Rani Lakshmibai's adversary in battle was Major General Hugh __.
Clue B: Part of the face above the mouth.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Which Ruskin Bond novella is set during the 1857 insurrection?
Use these clues.
a) Shahjahanpur
b) Ruth Labadoor
c) 'Junoon'
d) Javed Khan

WINNER'S NAMES: Sarveshwar Singhvi (16), Chikkamagaluru; Baasir Azeem Sheikh (11), Mangaluru; Kumadvathi Shenoy (12), Bantwala.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Pandit Ravi Shankar, A2) Audrey Hepburn, A3) 'Charulata', A4) Press/Dress, A5) Jawaharlal Nehru.

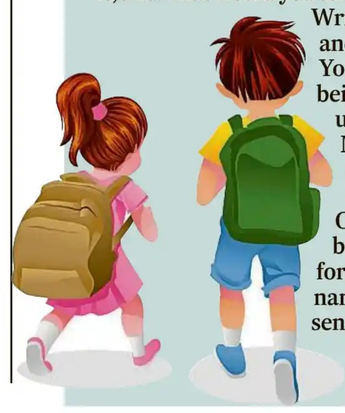
LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Is it better to adopt pets than buy them?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Entries close on May 14. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to your school bag

If you could have a conversation with your school bag, what would you like to know about it, and what would you tell it about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to opensesame@deccanherald.co.in Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on May 21.



Living with lions

In Gujarat's Amreli district, lions move through villages and fields, sometimes within arm's reach of residents. Locals have built statues and temples in their honour. But as their numbers grow, the relationship is beginning to shift. **Satish Jha** captures the chequered history of this coexistence

(Clockwise, from top) In Rampara, a densely inhabited coastal village in Gujarat, lions can be spotted almost everywhere – on roads, in farms, near water bodies, and close to homes and playgrounds. Farmers staying in fields at night are now being given iron cages for safety by the forest department. Residents of Lilia taluk have built a statue in memory of a lioness they fondly called Rajmata. PICS: RAJAN JOSHI

The villagers gathered at the local temple in Rampara spoke with certainty. "If you want to catch a glimpse of lions, go to the statue area after 10 pm. They come there all the time. Otherwise, stay back at the temple until midnight; you will at least hear them roar. They might even wander into the premises. But that has happened only once, five years ago," they told me.

I took the first suggestion and headed to the statue area straight after dinner, arranged by the temple priest with whom I was staying. The statue in question was that of a local community hero, built at a crossroads. One road led to Rampara, the coastal village in Rajula taluk of Gujarat's Amreli district, which I was visiting. The other stretched toward factories near Pipavav Port.

When I arrived there, a group of youngsters lingered around a paan shop. They were smoking, chewing mava (a mix of tobacco and supari), and chatting away. I greeted them and mentioned that I was there to spot lions in human habitats. They laughed at an outsider's fascination with what, to them, was just another animal in their backyard.

Eager to show off, one of them pulled out his phone and showed me a viral video of lions walking past the paan shop where we were sitting. Another shrugged and said, "They come whenever they feel like it." But a third lifted my hopes again as he said, "They come here every day, brother."

Then, mid-conversation, one of them asked us to quiet down. It was close to 11 pm. The village had fallen silent, except for the 'dug... dug' sound of water tankers passing the crossroads. In the gaps between those mechanical sounds, we heard the unmistakable bass-heavy roar. One or more lions lurked somewhere in the dark shrubs.

It was a spine-chilling moment for me. But for the youngsters, it was just another night at their favourite hangout spot. A local would later put it in perspective: "People may not like the comparison, but here, lions are as common as stray dogs".

Revival from near-extinction

Rampara is a densely inhabited village where lions punctuate almost every aspect of daily life. They roam the same roads locals take to the shipping factories where they work. They move through cotton and groundnut fields that farmers till. They drink from ponds that villagers depend on. And they wander past homes and playgrounds. It's hard to find a resident whose phone gallery doesn't contain footage of lions strolling through their midst. People post these clips as Instagram reels or share them privately on Snapchat.

But it wasn't always like this. By the end of the 20th century, the Asiatic lion had disappeared from everywhere except the Gir region in Gujarat. What followed is often hailed as a textbook success story in species revival. Their numbers rose from 327 in 2001 to 411 in 2010, 674 in 2020, and 891 in 2025. The latest count is a 32% increase over the previous census, and includes 196 males, 330 females, and a significant number of cubs.

As the lion population grew, the forests in and around Gir were no longer enough for them. Lions began moving out of protected areas and into nearby farms, roads, and human settlements. According to a 2022 study, nearly half of these lions now live outside their core home, the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. Announcing the rise in their numbers in 2025, the state government said, "The Asiatic lion, a jewel and a source of pride for Gujarat, now roams freely across 11 Saurashtra districts, including Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Morbi, Surendranagar, Devbhumi Dwarka, Jamnagar, Amreli, Porbandar, and Botad."

Amreli district, which I was visiting, has the highest concentration of Asiatic lions. The protected forests here exist in scattered patches, separated by revenue land that includes farms and villages. As lions move from one forest patch to another, they often pass through these populated areas.

"Lionesses find revenue areas safer for raising cubs, and easier for hunting cattle," said Vikas Yadav, deputy conservator of forests, Gir (East) division. Amreli falls under his jurisdiction.

Lilia taluk in Amreli district, in particular, shot into the limelight because of a lioness. Locals affectionately called her Rajmata, the Queen Mother. She was known for her peaceful coexistence with people and her high fertility, which helped boost the local lion population. Rajmata held world records, too. She lived nearly 19 years in the wild, far beyond the usual 12 to 15, and is said to have given birth even at the age of 18. When she died, environment and wildlife enthusiasts built a memorial on a hill near Lilia-Krankach, where she was often seen. It is engraved with the words: "World's most legendary lioness." Some villagers reportedly held a prayer meeting in her memory.

Rajmata was to Lilia what Machli, the Bengal tigress, was to Ranthambore National Park.

Such reverence is visible throughout this region. Sculpted lions sit regally on torans (gateways) at the entrances of towns and even at the gates of homes. And if a lion kills a cow, some farmers don't complain. They see it as coexistence. Lions help keep other wild animals, such as blue bulls and wild boars, away from farms, thereby protecting crops.

Lion spotting

After hearing the roar near the statue area of Rampara, everyone left. But my cab driver and I stayed back. A young man on a motorcycle soon pulled up and asked what we were doing out so late. I assumed he was a forest guard, but he was just another youngster killing time outdoors. When I told him the purpose of my story, he offered to take us to a "secret" spot frequented by lions. We followed him along a rugged zigzag trail into a dense patch of thorny shrubs called gando baval — a perfect hideout for lions. It was not a protected area. The land, he explained, belonged to private firms that had yet to take possession of it. Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Asiatic lions are a Schedule 1 species, and approaching them without permission is illegal. But such rules hold little meaning in this part of the world, where land falls under the revenue department and is privately owned by farmers, companies, and individuals.

Here too, a few youngsters were already hanging out, hunched over their phones. After a quick introduction, one began showing me lion videos that were not out in the public domain.

It was a cool night, but fatigue was catching up. Just as my eyes began to droop, a loud sound jolted me back to alertness. The youngsters said it was Lakshmi, a lioness, chuffing nearby. One of them, rubbing his hands in excitement, told me I was in luck. He had spoken too early. An hour passed, but Lakshmi never showed up.

Finally, the youngster who had brought us there picked up a torch and disappeared into the darkness. Fifteen minutes later, he returned with an update. He said Lakshmi had stopped here to drink water but had now changed course.

But I had been lucky on the previous day in Lilia, about three hours from Rampara. The orange sun was setting when we spotted two blue bulls standing on a bare farm. To my host, it was a sign that lions couldn't be far. And then we saw it — a young lion returning from the river. It paused on the riverbed and fixed its gaze on the blue bulls, which quickly vanished from the scene.

After a 10-minute drive, we spotted two more lions resting near a pool of water formed by a check dam. Not too far, three men on a motorcycle were burning something and flashing torches at us, signalling us to leave. They didn't appear to be forest officials. But further ahead, near the same check dam, a group of foresters was working around a herd of blue bulls.

Growing discontent

Lions began drifting into these villages over a decade ago. I could not trace the first encounter or how residents initially reacted, but I learnt people are now so used to their presence that sightings no longer trigger fear or panic.

Rameshbhai, a resident of Rampara, says he is used to being within arm's reach of lions and has stopped just short of petting them. "There is no need to fear lions," he said, speaking with ease. Unlike leopards, he observed, lions are not shy of humans and do not retreat quickly. Other locals think they are "a bit lazy", but most see this as part of their "royal nature".

But this coexistence is not without anxiety. Rameshbhai tends to his Gir cows near the Rajmata Lioness' Temple and keeps them in a cowshed reinforced with iron netting. Lions and leopards often visit his farm at night in search of water and easy prey.

The signs of caution are everywhere. According to 2025 government data, seven people have been killed by lions in the past two years and 40 others injured, and incidents are on the rise. The attacks so far have involved labourers working on farms. In response, the forest department has been distributing iron cage machaans (raised platforms) to farmers staying overnight in their fields. These are meant to protect them from lions and leopards.

I climbed into one such cage, barely six feet by four feet. Even inside, I felt exposed and vulnerable. My senses were on edge. I scanned the fields, shrubs, and every possible hiding place around me, aware that an apex predator could appear from anywhere.

On the way to Ambardi village in Savarkundla, I met pastoralist Govind Bharwad. He was resting with other villagers under a tree, their goats lying motionless in the heat. "We do feel scared, sir," he said. According to him, the government compensation of Rs 3,000 for livestock killed by lions is too little. "We raise and nurture the goat, doesn't it have any value? Where will you find a goat for Rs 3,000 in the market?" he asked. He also feels the law is unfair to them. Any harm caused to a lion is treated as a punishable offence, even when defending livestock from an attack. In the middle of the conversation, he informed me that a lion had killed a calf early in the morning.

"In the past 10 years, their numbers have grown so much that we now encounter them frequently while grazing our goats," he rued. On top of that, shrinking pasture land and abandoned fields being brought under cultivation are reducing the open spaces pastoralists like him once depended on.

Rampara sarpanch Sanabhai Vagh doesn't hide his displeasure. "By evening, everyone has to be home. Children must be called in before dark, and if they are late, four or five people go to bring them back. If our cattle don't return, we assume lions have taken them," he said.

Balancing act

The Saurashtra region, which includes the Amreli district, stands at a crossroads today. As a semi-arid landscape, it faced long-term water scarcity, which forced mass migration to cities such as Ahmedabad and Surat. Now the pattern is reversing as water availability has improved. 'Development' has set in. Thick vegetation is being cleared for farming, riverbeds are being widened, check dams are being built to conserve water, and the road network is expanding. As human settlements grow alongside a rising lion population, they are living in closer contact than before.

Yadav reminds me that this proximity has placed lions in a vulnerable position, too. Amreli district has recorded the highest number of lion deaths, mostly due to road accidents, falls into open wells, and collisions while crossing railway tracks.

Residents posting lion videos on social media to 'flex' this proximity is also a concern. According to forest officials, filming lions out in the open is not prohibited, but chasing, disturbing or teasing them attracts punishment of up to seven years in jail. Such acts are treated as equivalent to hunting.

The forest department is trying to maintain a fragile balance. It has deployed four to five forest guards, known as paryavaramitra, in villages such as Rampara. Rescue centres have been set up for injured lions. In schools, children are being taught what to do when they cross paths with a lion. On the road to Lilia, warning boards urging drivers to slow down because lions frequently cross are hard to miss.

As for the Gujarat government, lion conservation and revival efforts have taken on the character of a vanity project. It remains unwilling to translocate lions to other states. Instead, it has designated the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Porbandar, about 100 km from the Gir National Park, as a second protected home for Asiatic lions. This, after over two dozen animals naturally migrated there. What unfolds next may depend on managing the complicated realities of living alongside lions.

Like this story? Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

Teen prodigy and the art of reinvention

Tarang Joseph tells Mannat Chauhan about the journey of finding a sound of his own

Tarang Joseph was only 14 when he bagged his first gig in Bengaluru. It was back in 2014 at a popular live music venue that has since closed. Joseph quickly began garnering praise for his technical chops, and was labelled a prodigy.

Having been swept into the larger indie music scene at a young age, he found himself constantly influenced by what surrounded him. He began hopping across genres in a bid to find his sound. In 2016, he released the viral EDM track 'Sunset runaway' in collaboration with Astra and admits that it is still, "frustratingly", his most-streamed song.

He also explored rock, pop, and jazz along the way.

Now 26, Joseph says a significant part of his recent journey has been about unlearning. He realised that making complex music simply to impress industry professionals meant sacrificing his own artistic integrity. As he puts it, technical skill is like "swinging a sharpened sword", but to be a truly great artiste, one needs enriching life experiences to draw inspiration from.

With the upcoming release of his debut album, tentatively titled 'Life in Technicolor', Joseph believes he is finally stepping into "serious artistry".

His songwriting process often begins with a morning journalling session, after which he moves to the piano. His new work draws on "nostalgia, things left unsaid, heartbreak, and other personal struggles". For him, a great song should be seamless, "where the words sound like the music, and the music sounds like the words (sic)."

He has crafted what he calls a "future-leaning" sound, blending R&B/soul with funk. This is evident in the bright grooves of his first EP, 'Liquid Sunshine', and the nu jazz and disco-funk influences in his latest single, 'One track mind'. The latter serves as a personal anthem about taking control and unapologetically choosing his own path.

A trained vocalist and pianist, Joseph was certain about pursuing music right after graduating from high school. He admits that getting a foot in the door often comes down to luck. He feels fortunate to have roots in Bengaluru and a friend who's an audio engineer working with 'Big Dawgs' rapper Hanumankind. These factors, he says, put him in the right circles early on.

Today, he performs around 15 shows a month and is a popular name in the city's live music circuit.

Tarang Joseph performed his first concert at the age of 14.

Indian cinema is finally allowing mothers to exist beyond the tropes of sacrifice and anxious anticipation, as women with contradictions and emotional complexity, writes Pranati A S

MOTHERS, BUT without the halo

MOTHER'S DAY

In her most vulnerable state, Sadhana (played by Deepti Naval in 'Goldfish') tells her now-grown daughter that she had once left her in a pram in a park, never wanting to return. Because motherhood took away what she cherished most: her singing career.

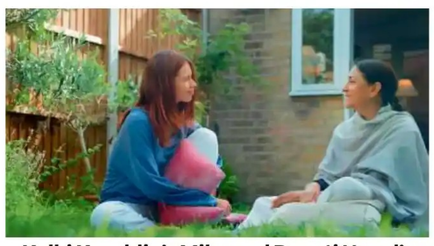
Imagining confessions like this from mothers in mainstream Indian cinema is quite difficult. For decades, Indian films idealised mothers, treating them as mythical figures — noble, honourable and self-sacrificing. Their suffering gave emotional weight to the hero's journey. Whether it was Nirupa Roy's silent endurance leading up to the dramatic line, 'Mere paas maa hai', or Rakhee's devoted 'Mere Karan Arjun wapas aayenge'. And let's not forget Jaya Bachchan's relentless wait for her son's return in 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham'.

Mothers in Indian cinema have rarely existed outside the family. But contemporary cinema is increasingly allowing mothers to be flawed, lonely, complex, sexual and politically aware. They are no longer symbols of sacrifice, but more human and genuine.

In 'Girls Will Be Girls', Shuchi Talati explores the sexual awakening of teenage Mira (Preethi Panigrahi) while also showing her single mother Anila's (Kani Kusruti) sexual desires. A mother's sexual desire has long been absent in Indian films — after all, once you have had a child, there is supposedly no time for self-growth or personal desire. Much like how Nandini's only role in 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham' is to hold the family together while waiting for her son's return.

Another interesting thread Shuchi Talati explores is Anila's competitiveness and jealousy towards her daughter. Indian films rarely allow mothers to feel threatened by their daughters. Mothers must nurture, not compete. But Anila's loneliness and

Preeti Panigrahi and Kani Kusruti play daughter-mother in 'Girls Will Be Girls'.



Kalki Koechlin's Miku and Deepti Naval's Sadhana bond over the latter's fading memories in 'Goldfish'.

emotional immaturity make her jealous of Mira's youth and the attention she receives. It is perhaps discomforting to watch, but it is also a profoundly human emotion.

Meharunnisa (Revathi) in 'Modern Love Hyderabad' comes to her estranged daughter's house to take care of the latter's broken leg. She is unapologetic about how she feels regarding her daughter's decisions, while Noori, played by Nithya Menen, openly confronts her mother about past wounds. Set amidst the pandemic, the director uses food, silence and playful banter to rebuild intimacy between the two women while also allowing them to remain angry with each other.

In films like 'Veer Zaara' and 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', mothers played by Kirron Kher and Farida Jalal tell their daughters (Zaara and Simran) that women can dream, but should never dream of fulfilling those desires. A decade later, we see a quirky Kirron Kher encouraging chaos, romance and self-expression in her daughter Mili, who has fallen in love with a handsome young prince (Fawad Khan) in 'Khoobsurat'.

Shefali Shah's Shamshu ('Darlings') is an unforgettable, fearless and sarcastic mother who supports her daughter Badru in teaching the latter's abusive husband a lesson. In the end, the two bond as Shamshu reveals details of how her husband abused her and what she had to do to get rid of him. A similar bond is explored between Neelam (also played by Shefali Shah) and her daughter Ayesha (Priyanka Chopra) in 'Dil Dhadakne Do', where both women connect through an unspoken understanding and shared trauma within a patriarchal society.

What's interesting about the Tamil series 'Sweet Kaaram Coffee' is that three generations of women quietly reject the identities assigned to them within domestic spaces. The series treats motherhood and caregiving not as sacred duties, but as roles that can become emotionally exhausting. Unlike older family dramas like 'Hum Saath Saath Hain', where mothers could step out of the house only during a big family trip, 'Sweet Kaaram Coffee' shows that mothers and wives need distance from family to rediscover individuality beyond caregiving.

I strongly wished for Sridevi's Shashi (in 'English Vinglish') to feel something more for Laurent, who is attracted to her and perhaps even in love with her. While the film follows her journey of self-discovery, the question remains: Does Shashi truly liberate herself? Even when there is growing agency in Indian cinema, does it finally allow mothers' desire without guilt? Shashi learns to love herself, but the film stops short of allowing her to cross those emotional boundaries. Laurent's affection remains tender, but unrealised.

Films like 'Goldfish' push the conversation further. Sadhana is not merely dissatisfied or underappreciated — she openly admits that motherhood made her resentful. She even leaves her will to a man living a few houses away. The film neither glorifies nor condemns her for it, but allows her contradictions to exist.

In the end, when you look at all these films, the mother-child bond remains intact even when the mother is not "perfect", showing that you do not necessarily need a self-sacrificing mother for that bond to survive.

Shefali Shah plays a sharp-witted mother to Alia Bhatt's naive Badru in 'Darlings'.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Evolution of an introverted star

If anything is striking about Vijay's journey from flop hero to political leader, it is his zeal for aiming higher, writes Mahesh Subramanian

In the revenge drama 'Mersal', Vijay is critical about digital India and the 'hurried' implementation of GST.

About 35 years ago, when Vijay expressed his wish to become an actor, his father, S A Chandrasekar, also a director, was not keen on the idea. As a typical Indian father, he tried to discourage his son's ambitions. But that didn't deter the son, who was firm in his zeal. He enacted the popular monologue from Rajnikanth's 'Annamalai'. Watching his intense performance, SAC decided to facilitate his son's cinema pursuits, becoming Vijay's main architect and mentor.

The early years were not easy for the young actor. His films (mostly B-grade potboilers made by his father) flopped miserably, attracting criticism from the press. In 1996, a breakthrough came with 'Poove Unakaga'. It was a silver jubilee hit. The film helped Vijay shed the soft-porn tag and transition into a star. From here on, Vijay became picky in choosing his roles. He struck gold the following year with 'Kadhalukku Mariyadhai', a remake of the Malayalam romantic drama, 'Aniyathupravu'. It became one of Vijay's biggest blockbusters. And a new star was born.

Vijay's winning streak continued with films like 'Priyamudan', 'Ninaithen Vandhai' and 'Thulladha Manaum Thullum'. The same press which once mocked him claimed he was the next superstar. This was perhaps when SAC realised that his son's influence had the potential to extend beyond cinema. In 1999, he made 'Nenjinile', a shoddy attempt at an unemployed Vijay getting involved in the Mumbai underworld. From this movie on, a trend began — supporting characters began singing songs praising Vijay. A line in the song 'Madras dosth nee', 'Teenage governmentin chief minister nee' translates to 'You are the chief minister of the teenage government'.

Until then, Vijay, known as a romantic hero, moved on to experimenting with macho, larger-than-life action thrillers. In 'Thamizhan', Vijay's character creates awareness about basic legal rights. He becomes a hero, and there are even stamps featuring him. The film, however, flopped. But Vijay was adamant about becoming an action hero.

He succeeded with 'Thirumala' (2003). Although not a big hit, the film shaped Vijay's rough macho roles that helped him tap the rural youth market. Close on the heels of 'Thirumala' came 'Ghilli', which catapulted him into Rajnikanth's league. Until 'Pokiri', Vijay quoted Rajini's dialogues or paid tribute as a fan. As a top-billed hero now, his aims were higher. His idol changed to MGR, as if to lay a foundation for his future political entry! From naming his movie after a popular MGR film ('Vettaikaran') or playing an MGR song in the title credits ('Villu'), and casually humming one before taking on the goons ('Bigil'), many references followed. By the mid-2010s, Vijay's films had heavy political themes. In 2013, 'Thalaivaa', a pastiche of 'Nayagan', 'Thevar Magan' and 'The Godfather', was released. The film's tag, 'It's time to lead,' ruffled the feathers of the then chief minister J Jayalalitha. The film was unofficially banned. The caption was dropped, and Vijay had to request the chief minister to release the film. This obsequious gesture was mocked by both DMK and AIADMK during campaigning.

In 2014, another blockbuster, 'Katthi', arrived. It saw Vijay in a double role — a petty thief and a social activist fighting for farmers against corporate exploitation. DMK was displeased with 'Katthi' as Vijay's character spoke about the 2G scam in the climax. After Jayalalitha's demise and with another stalwart, Karunanidhi staying out of politics owing to poor health, the clarion call for Vijay's political entry became apparent in 'Mersal'. Although the movie was a revenge action drama, his characterisation and dialogues were highly political to stir his fans.

After irking DMK and AIADMK, Vijay must have thought it was time to provoke the BJP. Dialogues from 'Mersal' mocking digital India and criticising the 'hurried' implementation of GST resonated with the audience, besides inviting the wrath of the BJP. As if this was not enough, the film had a song 'Aalaporaan Thamizhan ulam ellame' (A Tamilian is going to rule over the world).

If there is one thing striking about Vijay, it is his zeal to aim for greater heights. A shy, reticent college dropout carved a niche, and established himself as the highest-paid actor, only to quit and become a CM-designate within two years of forming a party.

MOVIE REVIEWS

Neetu Kapoor in 'Daadi Ki Shaadi'.

Underwhelming, outdated Baghban 2.0

AISHWARYA VASUDEVAN

★★☆☆☆

Daadi Ki Shaadi
Hindi (Theatres)
Director: Ashish R Mohan
Cast: Neetu Kapoor, Kapil Sharma, R Sarathkumar, Sadia Khateeb, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni

The film's title, 'Daadi Ki Shaadi', evokes thoughts of something niche and unique. However, once the story unfolds, even the atypicality of the title is reduced to gag reels — the kind we witness every day while doomscrolling on Instagram. The film makes an interesting choice in casting Neetu Kapoor as the matriarch, with Kapil Sharma hoping to become the life partner of her granddaughter (Sadia Khateeb). R Sarathkumar serves as a mere catalyst here, but he is eventually saddled with predictable traits in a story that offers no real surprises beyond the opening.

Directed by Ashish R Mohan, the film feels crowded just to put forth a point on parent-child relationships, with the "shaadi" serving as a mere plot device. For years, we have seen films that make children feel guilty for "abandoning" their parents; 'Baghban' (2003) remains the primary template. While the cultural narrative around parenting responsibilities has shifted drastically since then, 'Daadi Ki Shaadi' stubbornly reinstates that old-school guilt.

There is a moment where one of the sons tells Neetu's character, 'You should have just called and told us'. It's a bit of logic that makes the script's conflict feel entirely forced. Honestly, she might have saved everyone the trouble by simply urging her children to watch 'Baghban', as so many parents did back in the day.

Despite Neetu's delightful performance and Kapil's inability to escape his TV show persona, 'Daadi Ki Shaadi' ultimately fails in its writing, becoming increasingly preachy with each subsequent scene.

Shear delight in the countryside

TAHER AHMED

★★★★☆

The Sheep Detectives
English (Theatres)
Director: Kyle Balda
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Nicholas Braun, Nicholas Galitzine, Molly Gordon, Emma Thompson

Past the fences, the flock, and the peaceful countryside lies a murder mystery. 'The Sheep Detectives' blends wholesome farm-life charm with an engaging whodunnit, delivering a surprisingly clever and heartfelt experience that keeps the audience grazing for clues till the very end.

The story follows the quiet life of George Hardy (Hugh Jackman), a shepherd who finds peace and solace among his flock and is deeply adored by his sheep. Living in a sleepy countryside town, George appears to be a simple, kind-hearted man devoted to his animals and routine. Yet beneath the calm surface lies a man far more layered than the town believes him to be. When George is found dead under mysterious circumstances, the peaceful countryside is shaken to its core, leaving it up to the sheep to guide their local cop (Nicholas Braun) to piece together the truth behind his death.

Hugh Jackman plays a kind-hearted shepherd.

What makes the movie especially enjoyable is its flock of sheep, each carrying a distinct personality and charm. From the cautious observers to the impulsive troublemakers, to the outcast, every sheep contributes something special to the storyline, making the group feel like an oddly lovable detective squad.

Beneath all the fluff lies a genuinely well-crafted mystery filled with smart storytelling, decent plot twists, and enough suspense to keep the audience invested. Warm, witty, and surprisingly thoughtful, 'The Sheep Detectives' is a shear delight that proves there is more to this flock than meets the eye.

Tender film about grief

RASHMI VASUDEVA

★★★☆☆

Remarkably Bright Creatures
English (Netflix)
Director: Olivia Newman
Cast: Sally Field, Lewis Pullman, Colm Meaney, Joan Chen

'Humans, for the most part, are dull and blundering, but occasionally, you can be remarkably bright creatures'. That's the octopus narrator pronouncing its judgement on us. A cranky but wise mollusc, which believes that a single one of its tentacles might possess more intellect than a human brain.

Netflix's faithful adaptation of Shelby Van Pelt's bestselling novel could have easily slid into treacle territory. The book that goes by the same name was quite the sensation precisely because it did not do sentimentality. An all-knowing, sardonic octopus with a particular disdain for humans is the kind of whimsy that is as "cottage-core" as it comes. But the movie (as the book) is saved by the layers it peels off, and the lives it portrays outside the four glass walls of Marcellus, the octupus' cage. Marcellus is housed in a modest aquarium in an idyllic coastal town in the Pacific Northwest, where everyone knows everyone. Tova, a 70-year-old widow, cleans the aquarium at night while keeping up a running one-sided conversation with Marcellus (voiced by Alfred Molina). She strikes up an unlikely friendship with 30-something Cameron, who comes to the town searching for his father, whom he has never seen.

The ending is too neat, admittedly, but what is admirable is the tender way in which the screenplay handles grief, loneliness and lifelong yearning, ably supported by moving performances. One for the hankies.

Lost & found: Irrfan returns as the tenant

ANGEL RANI

★★☆☆☆

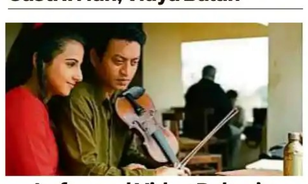
The Last Tenant
Hindi (YouTube)
Director: Sarthak Dasgupta
Cast: Irrfan, Vidya Balan

What happens when a master violinist moves into a mansion haunted by a music-loving ghost? Nights turn lively as the two jam together!

The lady in white seems harmless, as the landlord reassures every prospective tenant that the ghost "doesn't mean business".

The 45-minute short film could have been another forgettable whimsy, if not for Irrfan.

Filmed in 2000 and shelved after its original footage was lost, 'The Last Tenant' is now streaming on YouTube, a reminder of what Indian cinema lost with the actor's untimely death. The film features a very young Irrfan, long before his craft was recognised, yet the talent is unmistakable. He breezes through the flimsy proceedings with effortless assurance. The movie also features Vidya Balan, who was just starting out at the time. The film resurfaced only recently, after director Sarthak Dasgupta discovered a VHS copy.



Irrfan and Vidya Balan in 'The Last Tenant'.

Even in this low-budget production that screams '80s, it's a delight to watch Irrfan as the troubled musician grappling with a breakup.

Little Ramu's dreams

SAVITHA KARTHIK

SONG STORIES

'Bisile irali, maleye barali, kadalli medalli aleve' is one Kannada song anyone who has grown up in the Karnataka of the '80s will fondly remember. There's a certain innocence and joie de vivre that S P Balasubrahmanyam and Master Lohith (later superstar Puneeth Rajkumar) bring to the rendition. Both of them may have passed on but the life they breathed into this one lives on. The song is from the 1985 film 'Bettadava Hoovu', directed by N Lakshminarayan, written by Chi Udayashankar, and composed by Rajan-Nagendra.

It captures the story of a boy called Ramu, growing up in a hill station, roaming the forests in search of rare orchids. 'Sunlight let come, rain let it come, forest mountain I go roaming. Shirley Madam to giving mountain flower bringing', he sings. Shirley is an American woman who promises Ramu money for each flower he fetches. Little Ramu yearns to buy a copy of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu's 'Ramayana Darshanam' from the money. Eventually, he has to choose between fulfilling his dream and buying a blanket for his family. The film was based on a 1960 book, beautifully illustrated by Hans Guggenheim and written by American writer Shirley L Arora titled, 'What then, Raman?'

The song is special because it is rich with possibilities and the promise of a happier tomorrow. One doesn't know if Ramu's deferred dream will ever be fulfilled but for the duration of this song, he is happy.

Song Stories is a monthly column that takes up an iconic number and explores why it still lives rent-free in our heads.

"I think we were sure of how we wanted to chase the target. We did well, just one or two shots behind. It was a really good pitch, the ball was coming nicely on to the bat. We have four games more, we're taking it one step at a time.

RCB SKIPPER, RAJAT PATIDAR

Prince 'felt good' after bagging King Kohli's wicket

LUCKNOW, PTI: Lucknow Super Giants pacer Prince Yadav dismissed Royal Challengers Bengaluru batting stalwart Virat Kohli with a peach of a delivery during their IPL match here but the youngster does not want to play it up, saying that he was just happy that his team won.

In the second over of RCB's run chase, Prince Yadav produced a sensational delivery to bamboozle Kohli. The 140-kmph ball nipped back in to crash into Kohli's off stump. It marked Kohli's first IPL duck since a first-ball dismissal against Rajasthan Royals in April 2023.

LSG, who had posted 209 for 31, went on to win by nine runs under the DLS method, stopping RCB at 203 for 6 in 19 overs.

"I felt good after the (Kohli) wicket, but I am most happy that we won the match. If I had taken the wicket and we had lost, it wouldn't have been so (good)," Prince, who took three wickets for just 33 runs, said at the post-match press conference.

"Whether it's a different way or one way, when a bowler takes a wicket, it feels good. But as I said earlier, if the situation was such that we could have won the match only if we had taken the wicket, that's what happened and I am feeling good."

Some commentators felt that Prince's delivery to oust Kohli could be considered as one of the best in the tournament. Prince is having a breakout season with 16 wickets, just one off the Purple Cap table-toppers Bhuvneshwar Kumar (17) and Anshul Kamboj (17).

Knights leave DC in a daze

Allen slams century after spinners' stirring show in 8-wicket win

NEW DELHI, PTI

Kolkata Knight Riders' spinners strangled Delhi Capitals with a ruthless choke before Finn Allen unleashed a brutal six-hitting exhibition to power the visitors to a comfortable eight-wicket win and reignite their IPL playoff hopes here on Friday.

The spin trio of Anukul Roy (2/31), Sunil Narine (1/17) and Varun Chakravarthy (0/28), stifled Delhi's batting line-up, restricting them to a modest 142 for 8 despite a sparkling 29-ball 50 from Pathum Nissanka.

Impact substitute Allen then produced a fearless knock at the top. The Kiwi hit an astonishing 10 sixes and five fours in his unbeaten 47-ball 100 as KKR chased down the target on 14.2 overs.

The win, KKR's fourth on trot, catapulted them to seventh place while the loss, DC's seventh in 11 games this season, has all but killed their chances of making the playoffs.

Defending a below-par total, Delhi desperately searched for early breakthroughs and briefly found hope through moments of fortune.

Ajinkya Rahane was run out after the ball brushed Mitchell Starc's fingertips onto the stumps at the non-striker's end, while Angkrish Raghuvanshi was undone when the ball flicked his glove and rolled back onto the stumps.

Kolkata Knight Riders' Finn Allen smashed an unbeaten 100 off 47 balls against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Friday. AFP

But Allen's fearless stroke-play ensured KKR never lost sight of the chase as he dismantled the DC attack with clean hitting and aggressive intent.

Earlier, if it wasn't for Ashutosh Sharma's 39 off 28 balls which was laced with three boundaries and as many sixes, DC would have struggled to even cross the 100-run mark.

KKR's pacers complemented the spinners superbly, with Kartik Tyagi (2/25), Vaibhav Arora (1/29) and Cameron Green (1/12) striking at key moments to ensure Delhi never found sustained rhythm.

Asked to bat, Nissanka (50) and KL Rahul (23) provided Delhi a fluent start, with the Sri Lankan taking the aggressive route early, striking the innings' first boundary and six.

KKR, however, showed complete faith in their spin resources from the outset, handing the ball to Roy and Narine inside the Powerplay.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS: Pathum Nissanka st Raghuvanshi b Roy 50, KL Rahul c Green b Tyagi 23, Nitish Rana c Narine b Green 8, Sameer Rizvi c Powell b Narine 3, Tristan Stubbs b Roy 2, Axar Patel c Roy b Arora 11, Ashutosh Sharma c Rahane b Tyagi 39, Vipraj Nigam (not out) 3, Mitchell Starc (run out) 0, Lungi Ngidi (not out) 1. Extras (W-2) 2. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 142.**

Fall of wickets: 1-49, 2-74, 3-80, 4-85, 5-89, 6-128, 7-140, 8-140.

Bowling: Anukul Roy 4-0-31-2, Vaibhav Arora 3-0-29-1, Sunil Narine 4-0-17-1, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-25-2, Varun Chakravarthy 4-0-28-0, Cameron Green 1-0-12-1.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: Ajinkya Rahane (run out) 13, Finn Allen (not out) 100, Angkrish Raghuvanshi b Axar 1, Cameron Green (not out) 33. **TOTAL (for 2 wkts, 14.2 overs) 147.**

Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-31.

Bowling: Mitchell Starc 3-0-31-0, Axar Patel 4-0-27-1, Lungi Ngidi 2-0-7-0, Vipraj Nigam 2-0-34-0, Kuldeep Yadav 3-0-41-0, Mukesh Kumar 0.2-0-7-0.

Result: KKR won by 8 wkts.

PoM: Finn Allen

Unauthorised entries in players' rooms banned

BCCI cracks the whip after ACU flags concerns

NEW DELHI, PTI

Warning of potential "honey traps, legal liability and security risks", the BCCI has banned unauthorised visitors from the hotel rooms of players, support staff and team officials in the IPL after incidents of "misconduct and protocol violations" were flagged by the Board's Anti-Corruption Unit.

In an elaborate advisory for the 10 IPL franchises, the BCCI has said that written authorisation from the team managers would be a must for guests to have access to the players' and officials' rooms.

"The advisory has been issued in light of certain incidents observed during ongoing season and is intended to reinforce the standards of professionalism, discipline, security awareness and protocol compliance expected from all stakeholders associated with IPL," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a communication to the CEOs of the franchises.

"It has come to the attention of the BCCI that certain incidents of misconduct and protocol violation have occurred involving players, support staff and team officials during the course of the current IPL season.

"These incidents if left unaddressed, carry the potential to cause significant reputational harm to the tournament, the franchise concerned and the BCCI as the Governing Body. They may further expose individuals and franchises to legal liability and security risks of serious nature," he went on to warn in the preamble of the document.

The Board noted that certain players and support staff members have permitted unauthorised persons to access their hotel rooms without the knowledge or approval of the concerned Team Manager.

"In a number of instances, Team Manager was entirely unaware of the presence of such visitors. The practice is strictly prohibited with immediate effect," the notification ordered.

All players and support staff have now been given a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that needs to be followed for the duration of the tournament.

"No guest shall be escorted to private hotel rooms unless Team Manager has specifically authorised the same in writing. The BCCI draws attention to all franchises to the well documented risks of targeted compromise and honey trapping that pervade high profile sporting environments.

BCCI'S SOPS

- No unauthorised guests in hotel rooms to avoid legal allegations, including sexual misconduct
- Periodic checks by the BCCI/ the IPL Operations Team to ensure compliance with the guidelines
- Owners barred from player interaction during games to strictly conform to the PMOA Protocol
- No vaping/ smoking within tournament premises
- Breaches to invite sanctions ranging from financial penalties to suspension or disqualification

Rajasthan Royals will be hoping star opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi fires from the front when they take on Gujarat Titans on Saturday. PTI

GT face RR as playoffs race heats up

JAIPUR, PTI

An upbeat Gujarat Titans will be determined to continue their winning streak and leapfrog a wobbly Rajasthan Royals in their mid-table Indian Premier League clash here on Saturday.

Only the net run rate separates the 2022 edition winners Gujarat Titans (-0.147) from the fourth-placed 2008 champion Rajasthan Royals (0.510) in the points table as the two teams have fared alike so far. Both GT and RR have six wins and four defeats in 10 matches each.

But the Shubman Gill-led side will fancy their chances against the wobbly Royals, who have suffered three defeats in their last five matches. The Titans have racked up three wins on the trot and looking to break into the top four.

Royals captain Riyan Parag struck 90 in RR's first-innings score of 225 for six but it was not enough against Delhi Capitals who overhauled it with seven wickets and five balls to spare. It was the second such instance in a row when a first-innings total in excess of 220 could not be defended by the Royals.

While Rajasthan Royals are indeed top-heavy with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (404 runs), Yashasvi Jaiswal (312) and even Dhruv Jurel (290) doing the heavy lifting, they will need their skipper to fire big in the lower order, which has only Donovan Ferreira (229) hitting at 150 or above.

Jurel has undoubtedly been a vital cog in the Royals' batting line-up, but the right-handed batter has been guilty of not accelerating at the top. In his last three outings, Jurel has scored 42 off 30 balls, 16 off 20 balls, and 42 off 30 balls at No. 3 and these numbers certainly warrant further improvement in a season where no total, batting first, is safe.

While IPL 2026 has been even more severe on the bowlers, the Royals will have to find solutions of their bowling woes, especially in the middle overs.

On their part, the Titans will be pleased at how they are peaking at the right time.

Gill (378 runs) has been a consistent run-getter and will be keen on converting his start into a big score, while Sai Sudharsan (385) will also be determined to make the most of his form, having struck two fifties and a hundred in his last four outings. Jos Buttler's (335) return to consistency once again makes the Titans extremely dangerous at the top, while they also have finishers with requisite skills to see off tough situations in the lower order.

However, like any top-heavy sides, a collapse piles pressure down the order, and the Titans had failed miserably a few times.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	7	4	0	14	0.737
Punjab Kings	10	6	3	1	13	0.571
Royal Challengers	10	6	4	0	12	1.234
Rajasthan Royals	10	6	4	0	12	0.510
Gujarat Titans	10	6	4	0	12	-0.147
Chennai Super Kings	10	5	5	0	10	0.151
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	5	1	9	-0.169
Delhi Capitals	11	4	7	1	8	-1.154
Mumbai Indians	10	3	7	0	6	-0.649
Lucknow Super Giants	10	3	7	0	6	-0.934

Excellent Lass for main event

BENGALURU SELECTIONS

Rajesh Narredu-trained Excellent Lass, to be ridden by Yash Narredu, is fancied for the Kunigal Stud Trophy, the feature event of the races on Saturday. The first race starts at 3:00 pm.

1. The Chantille Plate 1500M: Star Of India 1, Alamgir 2, Pledge 3.
2. The Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti Plate 1300M: Circle Of Dreams 1, Rodney 2, Sassy Sarah 3.
3. The Dupont Plate 1200M: Razzmatazz 1, Husanara 2, Jalwa 3.
4. The Kunigal Stud Trophy 1200M: Excellent Lass 1, Ricardo 2, Kalamitsi 3.
5. The Dean Stephens Memorial Trophy 1400M: Siege Storm 1, The Archer 2, Alman 3.
6. The Azhar Plate: 1200M: Final Call 1, Lg's Star 1, Chisox 3.
Day's Best: Final Call.
Jackpot: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.
Mini Jackpot: 3, 4, 5 & 6.
I treble: 1, 2 & 3.
II treble: 4, 5 & 6.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Rajasthan Royals vs Gujarat Titans (**7:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Liverpool vs Chelsea (**5 pm**), Fulham vs Bournemouth, Sunderland vs Manchester United, Brighton & Hove Albion vs Wolverhampton Wanderers (**all 7:30 pm**), Manchester City vs Brentford (**10 pm**). **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

ISL: FC Goa vs Mohun Bagan SG (**5 pm**), Jamshedpur FC vs Bengaluru FC (**7:30 am**). **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, FanCode.**

TENNIS

ATP Masters: Rome Masters Round of 32 (**5:30 pm**). **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

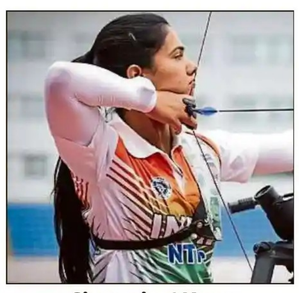
Archers stay in medal hunt

SHANGHAI, PTI

Recurve archer Simranjeet Kaur and compound shooter Sahil Jadhav emerged as India's surprise standout performers in an otherwise patchy campaign, staying on course for their maiden Archery World Cup medals here on Friday.

Asian Games team bronze medallist Simranjeet, who narrowly missed a place in the Indian women's team after finishing three points behind Deepika Kumari in the qualification round, made the most of her individual opportunity by storming into the semifinals at Stage 2 of the World Cup.

The 27-year-old from Haryana defeated Taiwanese teenager Fong You Jhu 6-0 (27-24, 28-26, 29-26) in straight sets to move within one win of her maiden World Cup medal.



Simranjeet Kaur

Fong had earlier stunned India's top-ranked archer Ankita Bhakat in the second round.

Simranjeet was at her consistent best, dropping just six points from nine arrows against the 19-year-old from Chinese Taipei in the quarters.

She now faces the toughest test of her career against world No.1 Kang Chaeyoung of South Korea in the semifinals. Even if she loses, she will still have a chance to secure bronze through the playoff.

India's experienced campaigner Deepika Kumari and teenager Kumkum Mohod reached the pre-quarterfinals before running into stronger opponents.

Deepika lost to familiar South Korean rival Chaeyoung, the reigning world champion and Tokyo Olympics team gold medallist, while Kumkum went down to Mexican veteran Alejandra Valencia, a two-time Olympic team bronze medallist.

Dominant FCBU jump to the top

BENGALURU, DHNS: A dominant FC Bengaluru United recorded a comprehensive 4-1 victory over visitors Sporting Club de Goa to jump to the top of the I-League 2 table at the Dravid-Padukone Centre of Excellence here on Friday.

Mohanraj Nallappan's men were on the offensive from the get-go and registered their fourth win of the season to sit a point above second-placed Delhi FC, who have a game in hand.

Result: FC Bengaluru United: 4 (Lijo K 23rd, Akshunna Tyagi 63rd, Aenam Graffenberg Jurwa 82nd, Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar 90th) bt Sporting Club de Goa: 1 (Joel Colaco 94th).

Vaidehee, Zeel win to keep Indian challenge alive

TUMAKURU, DHNS: Indian stars Vaidehee Chaudhari and Zeel Desai kept the home challenge alive by advancing to the singles semifinals of the Tumakuru Open ITF W35 after hard-fought three-set victories at the Tumakuru District Tennis Courts on Friday.

Top seed Justina Mikulskyte and second seed Zuzanna Pawlikowska also survived stern tests to complete a high-quality semifinal lineup. In doubles, Vaidehee and Pawlikowska entered the final in dominant fashion, while the pair of Ksenia Laskutova and Elina Nepliy secured the other spot in the title clash.

Vaidehee will clash with Justina in the first semifinal while Zeel locks horns with Pawlikowska in the second last-four contest.

Third seed Vaidehee battled past sixth seed Ekaterina Yashina 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-5 in a gripping encounter that lasted two hours and 40 minutes.

Fourth seed Zeel Desai then matched her compatriot's fighting spirit with a dramatic 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 comeback win over Arina Arifullina in a marathon contest lasting two hours and 52 minutes.

Results: Singles (quarterfinals, prefix denotes seedings): 4-Zeel Desai (Ind) bt Arina Arifullina 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; 2-Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) bt 5-Elina Nepliy 1-6, 7-5, 3-0 (rtd); 3-Vaidehee Chaudhari (Ind) bt 6-Ekaterina Yashina 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-5; 1-Justina Mikulskyte (Ltu) bt Ksenia Laskutova 5-7, 6-0, 6-2.

Doubles (semifinals): 1-Vaidehee Chaudhari (Ind)/ Zuzanna Pawlikowska (Pol) bt 3-Akanksha Dileep Nitture (Ind)/ Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-1, 6-2; Ksenia Laskutova/ Elina Nepliy bt 4-Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi (Ind)/ Zeel Desai (Ind) 6-1, 6-2.

Third seed Vaidehee Chaudhari of India battled past sixth seed Ekaterina Yashina in the quarterfinal clash at the Tumakuru Open ITF W35 on Friday.

Kriish, Dev get wild cards for ATP Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Promising Karnataka youngster Kriish Tyagi and Gujarat's Dev Javia have been awarded main draw wild cards for the first week of the ATP Bengaluru Challenger event to be held from May 10 to 14 at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium.

The third and final main draw wild card will be announced on Saturday.

Kriish, one of India's brightest junior prospects, has been steadily making a mark on the international junior circuit. The Bengaluru-based player climbed to a career-high ITF junior ranking of No. 51 after winning the J200 title in Fergana and a J100 event in Zimbabwe in 2024. The 17-year-old is currently training and competing in the United States collegiate circuit.

The qualifying draw wild cards have been awarded to Karnataka players Aradhya Kshitij and Gandharva Gourav Kothapal.

Aradhya has enjoyed a breakthrough junior season, highlighted by his impressive ITF J200 title triumph in Kolkata earlier this year where he fought back from a set down in both the semifinal and final. The Bengaluru player has also won multiple ITF junior titles and is regarded as one of Karnataka's rising stars.

Gukesh finishes tied fourth in welcome return to form

WARSAW (POLAND), PTI: World champion D Gukesh **(in pic)** defeated American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana in the ninth and final round to be tied fourth in the Super Rapid and Blitz Tournament's rapid competition here, sustaining a welcome return to form after struggling for the past few months.

The Indian is tied fourth with 18 more rounds to come in the blitz section that follows the rapid event.

The 19-year-old Gukesh had started the final day of the rapid section with a loss against French Grandmaster Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and then in the penultimate round drew with Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia.

Wild card American Hans Moke Niemann yet again proved his detractors wrong by emerging as the surprise winner of this section on 13 points in all. Niemann edged out compatriot Wesley So by a full point who ended second ahead of Fedoseev on 11.

"My rapid event was inconsistent. I was playing well, but I missed a few chances. There were also games where I was in trouble and managed to save. The tournament could have been better," Gukesh told 'Saint Louis Chess Club'.

Gukesh, Caruana and Duda Jan-Krzystzof of Poland tied for the fourth spot on nine points apiece and the main battle is likely to be between these six players once the blitz competition begins.

"In blitz, all you have to do is play fast and pray. That's going to be my strategy," he said.

Gukesh got in to some initial trouble against Caruana who played the black side of a Benoni defense. The American won a pawn in the early middle game but Gukesh kept himself in the hunt by creating counter play on the queen side.

IN BRIEF

Anshul scores big victory

▸ Promising young talent Anshul Mishra completed a splendid wire-to-wire victory on the final day of the IGU Andhra Pradesh Amateur Golf Championship at the East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam, reports DHNS from Bengaluru.

Leading scores (after 72 holes): 282: Anshul Mishra (WB, 70, 71, 70, 71); 290: Deepak Yadav (Del, 70, 73, 76, 71); 292: Vinamra Anand (UP, 74, 71, 72, 75).

Free online chess classes

▸ The Yadav School of Chess in Shivamogga will conduct free online coaching classes 'Neevu Chess Kaliri' for economically backward children from May 12 to 18, reports DHNS.

The classes through Zoom App will be held in two batches -- 10:30 am and 4 pm -- by K Pranesh Yadav, an international arbiter. For further details contact Pranesh 9242401702, 9743819678.

Sub-jr hockey from May 18

▸ Hockey Karnataka will be conducting Sub-junior women (under-16) hockey tournament at the Field Marshal KM Cariappa Hockey Arena, Shanthi Nagar, from May 18-23, reports DHNS.

Shanto ton steers Bangla

▸ Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto hit an attacking century as Bangladesh recovered from a shaky start to post 301-4 on the opening day of the first Test against Pakistan on Friday, reports AFP from Dhaka.

Shanto struck his ninth Test hundred off just 129 balls with the help of 12 fours and two sixes to delight the home fans.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 301/4 in 85 overs (Mominul Haque 91, Najmul Hossain Shanto 101, Mushfiqur Rahim 48 n.o.) vs Pakistan.

Ronaldo's 100th Saudi PL goal

▸ Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 100th Saudi Pro League goal as Al-Nassr beat Al-Shabab 4-2 to move five points clear at the top of the table, reports AP from Riyadh.

The 41-year-old forward converted a Sadio Mane cross at the near post with 15 minutes remaining to record the 971st goal of his career on Thursday. It was his 26th league goal of the season.

FOOTBALL EUROPA LEAGUE

Slick Villa ambush Forest

Emery's side score 4-0 win in second leg to set up Freiburg final

BIRMINGHAM, AFP

Aston Villa striker Ollie Watkins saluted Unai Emery for masterminding his side's run to the Europa League final after they thrashed Nottingham Forest 4-0 on Thursday.

Emery's side produced a memorable performance in the semifinal second leg at Villa Park as goals from Watkins and Emiliano Buendia put them in control before John McGinn's brace completed the rout.

Chasing their first major trophy since 1996 and the first European prize in 44 years, Villa will face Bundesliga club Freiburg in the final in Istanbul on May 20.

Lukas Kuebler scored in each half as Freiburg beat Braga 3-1 at home on Thursday to win 4-3 on aggregate.

Freiburg trailed by a goal from the opening leg but were given a leg up after seven minutes when Mario Dorgeles of Braga received a straight red card.

Kuebler's opener and Johan Manzambi's brilliant effort had the hosts 2-0 up and one ahead in the tie by half-time. Kuebler added another in the second-half.

Pau Victor pulled one back for Braga late, Freiburg held on to reach a first European final.

However, Villa will be firm favourites, in part because of the presence of Europa League specialist Emery, who has won the competition four times -- three with Sevilla and one at Villarreal -- and is in the final for a sixth time.

"There is no better manager to get us prepared for this game and obviously take us into the final as well. His track record speaks for itself," Watkins said.

"We are in a great position, but we need to go there and win now."

Villa were beaten in their previous three matches in all competitions, including a 1-0 first leg defeat at Forest and a 2-1 loss to lowly Tottenham on Sunday. Emery's team, largely comprised of reserves, were booed off after the Tottenham defeat, but Watkins said they were already focused on beating Forest.

Villa famously stunned Bayern Munich in the 1982 European Cup final, but they will be favourites rather than underdogs in the second continental final in their history.

Results (semifinal 2nd legs): Aston Villa: 4 (Watkins 36th, Buendia 58th-pen, McGinn 77th, 80th) bt Nottingham Forest: 0 (Aston Villa win 4-1 on aggregate): Freiburg: 3 (Kubler 19th, 72nd, Manzambi 41st) bt Braga: 1 (Pau Victor 79th) (Freiburg win 4-3 on aggregate). **Final:** May 20, Istanbul.

John McGinn (above) scored a brace following a goal each by Ollie Watkins and Emiliano Buendia during Aston Villa's 4-0 win of Nottingham Forest in Birmingham on Thursday. AFP

Ashique injury adds to BFC's woes

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

With title hopes fast eroding, Bengaluru FC's Indian Super League campaign was handed a body blow with key players Ashique Kuruniyan and Nikhil Poojari out for the rest of the season due to injuries.

Forward Ashique, who featured in 10 of the 11 matches and scored three goals, will be out of action due to calf injury for at least a month.

Meanwhile Poojari, who suffered a hamstring injury in stalemate against Mumbai City FC at home last month, is yet to recover and may take 7-10 days to recover while the season folds on May 17.

While versatile veteran defender Rahul Bheke has to fill in in the last game for attack-minded right back Nikhil with Namgyal Bhutia available as the back-up, young winger Monirul Molla may step in for Ashique.

The lack of depth is too apparent for the Blues, who entered the season with just two foreigners and will have to face a stiff challenge from joint leaders Jamshedpur FC (21 points from 11 matches) on Saturday.

BFC, placed seventh, have paid heavy price for their squad fallacies and find themselves four points away from the top with just two matches left to play while a AFC Champions League playoff spot is also at stake. Another unfavourable outcome means BFC will have little to cheer about this season.

Head Coach Pep Munoz, who remains in hunt for his first win at the club, admitted that lack of depth had hurt their chances but reiterated the point that he came to BFC with the objective to build the club for the next season.

"The club and I were on the same page when we agreed terms that we need to strengthen the squad in certain areas for the next season and efforts are already on to do so since the last few weeks," said the coach.

Forward Ashique Kuruniyan will be out for at least a month due to calf injury.

Karia's six-for spurs Cambridge

BENGALURU, DHNS: Jash Karia shone with a six-wicket haul to power Cambridge Cricket Club to a resounding seven-wicket win over Cavaliers Cricket Club in the KSCA under-16 inter-club tournament here.

Karia's 6/17 was instrumental in Cavaliers being bowled out for 108 in 38 overs. Daiwik then top-scored with 38 as Cambridge lads scaled down the target in 14.1 overs.

LOCAL CRICKET

Brief scores: Cavaliers Cricket Club: 108 all out in 38 overs (Yashas Adiga 33; Samrudh Girish 2-22, Jash Karia 6-11) lt to Cambridge Cricket Club: 111/3 in 14.1 overs (Daiwik M 38, Swaroop H 29 n.o.).
Rajajinagar Cricketers: 260/8 in 50 overs (Niranjan Ashok 47, Arnav Ravindra Dere 93, Rajveer Padam Mehta 27; Bhavin Joe Francis 2-46, Cheran Tej Raju C 3-38) bt Jawahar Sports Club (1): 121 all out in 36.5 overs (Shaurya Vinod 30; Raghav Sanjay Vadher 2-22, Kushal KA 3-21, M Neeraj 3-17).
Jupiter Cricketers Association: 118/5 in 28 overs (Musa Akhib Syed 60 n.o.; V Varun Kaushik 3-12, Aditya Yadav 2-10) lt to Herons Cricket Club: 123/2 in 15.3 overs (Niraj V 27, Ninad Brijesh Nagarkar 42 n.o., Jaswanth N 30 n.o.). Start of the match was delayed due to wet outfield, reduced to 28 overs per side.
Mathikere Cricket Club: 104 all out in 31.3 overs (Yuvaan Porwal 2-35, Khrishay Reddy 3-28, Paarth Madan 3-3) lt to Vijaya Cricket Club: 106/2 in 14.1 overs (Saad Rayyan Khan 42 n.o., Anjaney Gupta 41 n.o.; Rishi Chetan Udeshi 2-41).
City Cricketers (2): 180/4 in 34 overs (Parthaan R 88, Sahas N P 49 n.o.; Anirudh Katige 2-27) lt to Malleswaram Gymkhana: 180/9 in 32.5 overs (Chiranthgowda 66 n.o.; Hithvik Reddy KV 4-29).
Swastic Union Cricket Club (2): 148 all out in 34.5 overs (Sai Rochan J 26, Kartik Rathod 46; Sai Vignesh Srikanth 4-31, Yashas Reddi Bongu 2-36) lt to Wadiyar Cricket Club: 149/4 in 22.5 overs (Yuvaraj D Kumar 26, Sai Vignesh Srikanth 85 n.o., Pratham Rao 25; Krishna Sreekar JS 2-42).

India U-17 girls trounce Lebanon to enter historic quarterfinals

SUZHOU (CHINA), PTI: In a significant achievement, India qualified for the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup quarterfinals for the first time with a commanding 4-0 victory against Lebanon in their final Group B fixture here on Friday.

India's entry into the quarters was confirmed after the Philippines and Chinese Taipei failed to win their final head-to-head Group C match by a margin of 12 goals or more. India made the last eight as one of the two best third-placed teams alongside Thailand.

India finished the group stage with three points and a goal difference of -1, significantly higher than Philippines' -13 in Group C.

Pritika Barman **(in pic)** (7th, 85th minutes), Alva Devi Senjam (36th), and Joya (72nd) had earlier put India on the verge of qualification with their strikes at the Suzhou Taihu Football Sports Centre.

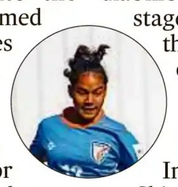
This is India's first win and first goals in the tournament since 2005, and also it marked the team's first-ever qualification to the knockout stage at the AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup.

In women's football, it is India's first Asian Cup knockout stage appearance since the AFC U-19 Championship in 2004, when the team reached the quarterfinals.

In the quarterfinal, India will face hosts China, who topped Group A with nine points.

A win in the quarterfinal would secure qualification to the 2026 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Morocco, which would be India's first FIFA World Cup qualification on merit at any level, men's or women's.

Knowing only a win would keep their qualification hopes alive, India began with intent and took the lead as early as in the sixth minute.



Shaina, Abhinav march into SF

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Abhinav Garg and Shaina Manimuthu registered convincing victories to march into the semifinals of the U-19 boys' and girls' events respectively at the Yonex-Sunrise All India Junior-ranking badminton tournament here at KBA Courts on Friday.

In the boys' quarterfinals, Abhinav defeated Andhra Pradesh's Bala Pranay Pragada 21-19, 21-7 in straight games to advance. Karnataka's Hardik Divyansh also progressed into the last four with a win over Tamil Nadu's Saivasan B.

Results: U-19: Boys: (All quarterfinals, prefix denotes seeding): Akhil Reddy Bobba (Tel) bt Dhyan Santosh (Kar) 21-12, 21-16; 4-Abhinav Garg (Kar) bt Bala Pranay Pragada (AP) 21-19, 21-7, Gnana Dattu TT (Tel) bt Tanmainihal Uttam (Tel) 21-11, 21-16; 9-Hardik Divyansh (Kar) bt Saivasan B (TN) 21-19, 19-21, 21-18.
Girls: Singles: 1-Shaina Manimuthu (Kar) bt Durga Esha Kandrapu (AP) 21-13, 21-19; Akshita Gulia (Har) bt Avni Vikram Govind (Tel) 21-16, 15-21, 21-18; 5-Tanvi Patri (Ori) bt Tanvi Reddy Andluri (Tel) 17-21, 22-20, 22-20.

Vehan five-for steers Dooravani Cricketers (1) home

BENGALURU, DHNS

Vehan Prabhakar bagged an economical five-wicket haul while Ayaan Mohammad struck an unbeaten half-century as Dooravani Cricketers (1) thrashed Friends Union Cricket Club (1) by seven wickets in the KSCA Under-16 Inter-Club cricket tournament here.

Having called it right at the toss and opting to bat, FUCC (1) folded for a meagre 143 in 41.4 overs.

Dooravani's opening bat Vehan hogged all the limelight, returning figures of 5/15 in eight overs, including four maidens.

Chasing a modest target, Dooravani cruised to victory in 19.4 overs, thanks to Ayaan's 67.

Brief scores: Friends Union CC(1): 143 all out in 41.4 overs (Rishabh Gowda M 31, Shrutik Ghosh 35, Aaryansinh Chavda 36; Raghavan Krishnakumar 2-19, Vehan Prabhakar 5-15) lt to Dooravani Cricketers (1): 144/3 in 19.4 overs (Ayaan Waheed Mohammad 67 n.o.; Kaushik M 2-17).

Spartons Sports Club: 340/6 in 50 overs (Ryan Tomar 86, Vastvik Sharma 41, K Hrithik Polin 95, Vikrant Ronav Budala 50; Keyur N Salot 3-31) bt Caravan Cricketers: 132 all out in 40.5 overs (Rajveer Chowdhary 31, Ayush 25; Vivaan Singh 3-22, Tanish Bennuri 2-29, Goutham Panchariya 2-36).
Minerva Cricket Club: 151/7 in 24 overs (Preetham Ravi 26, Atharv Shrivastav 65; Abhaychandra Kallapura 2-34, Aniket Chaturvedi 3-13) bt Vijaya Cricket Club, Malur: 112 all out in 22.2 overs (Koneti Abhiroop Royal 44, Soumyarup Mukherjee 3-13, Arnav Mehta 2-28, Naman Chauhan 2-18, Yug Sinh Jadeja 3-27). (Start of the match was delayed due to wet outfield and match was revised to 24 overs per side.)
Yankees Cricket Club: 274 all out in 43.5 overs (Miraan Mahajan 58, Aradhya N Sheety 99, Advik Srinivas 69, Dhruvdinesh TV 5-56, Laksh 2-50) bt Chintamani Sports Association, Chintamani: 153 all out in 32.2 overs (Deghul MN 26 n.o., Ruhaan Shaikh 49).
Engrades Cricket Club: 231 all out in 48 overs (Samvit Shastri 59, Rohit Sai Ketireddi 38, Sriman Pratyush Reddy Alamuru 32 n.o.;, Darsh Raikar 2-33, Sanvith P Rai 3-28) bt National Cricketers: 200 all out in 47.2 overs (Muhammed Luqhman J 44, Surya Sendhil 49; Sriman Pratyush Reddy Alamuru 3-45, Rivansh Mohapatra 2-26, Tanish Menghani 2-41, Rohit Sai Ketireddi 2-25).
Social Cricketers: 280/4 in 50 overs (Athreya Bhat 49, Hridaan Sai 86, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 49, Agastya Khashu 62 n.o.; Aryan Kadadevarmath 2-55) bt Sapphire Cricket Club: 136 all out in 36.3 overs (Mokshith Bakkamanthula 27, Viresh Moktan 45, Siddhant Srikant 2-21, Vyom Naidu 4-37, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 2-27).
Palar Sports Club, Kolar: 129/6 in 20 overs (Lokesh VR 48, Likhith Gangappa Gaddi 25; Roopesh V Gowda 2-21, Vivek B 4-22) bt Sangam Cricket Association: 128/9 in 20 overs (Lakshya Chandana 28, Arnav Atul Joshi 31, Vishal Reddy S V 2-15).
Friends Union Cricket Club (2): 127 all out in 37.2 overs (Nabhanyu 25; Vijay Hanumanthappa 2-26, Souhard B 2-18, Aarav Bajaj 2-10) lt to Bangalore United Cricket Club (1): 129/1 in 14.5 overs (SM Bhavith 50, Aarav Bajaj 61).
Jawahar Sports Club (2): 189 all out in 40.2 overs (Kaushik S Poojary 31, Kushanand R 29, Nikhil G Chethan 26, Srinath Seshadri 2-34, Mohammed Arhaan Khan 3-54, Sandeep Kumar Yadav B 3-25) lt to Neptune Cricket Club: 190/3 in 27.3 overs (Srinath Seshadri 35, Srijesh Parthiban 89; JN Jeevan 2-34).

Cycling event 'L'Etape Mysuru' on October 4

BENGALURU, DHNS: L'Etape Mysuru, part of the global L'Etape by Tour de France series, is set to be held on October 4 across the streets and scenic landscapes of the heritage city of Karnataka.

Organised in association with Karnataka Tourism and in partnership with NEB Sports, the one day cycling competition will have four categories -- The Race (for competitive riders) 100 kms, The Ride (for fitness enthusiasts) 50 kms, Family Fun Ride (open to all ages) 20 kms and Kids & Community Ride 1km.

Riders will take over routes set against the well-known backdrops of Mysuru and the KRS region.

On Friday, the official logo for the event was unveiled with announcement that the registration for the event will be announced shortly.

Vinesh certain of her comeback on May 10

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

After question marks were raised over her eligibility to compete upon the much-awaited comeback post retirement, Vinesh Phogat and camp pushed back on the claims while asserting the decorated wrestler has ticked all the boxes for the National Ranking Series in Gonda, UP, on May 10.

After the 31-year-old wrestler was registered for the event, not before her allegation of being blocked by Wrestling Federation of India from doing so, the body remained in doubt if Vinesh, a Registered Testing Pool athlete, has followed the protocol of informing United World Wrestling (UWW) and National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) six months or less in advance in order to be available for dope testing.

Vinesh's camp has strongly contested to such doubts saying, she never had any such obligations to fullfil.

"Vinesh never had to inform UWW because she never officially took retirement from the sport," a close associate of Vinesh told *DH*. "That's why she is still on the RTP list and unfortunately led to the missed test on December 18 when she was travelling from Bengaluru to Chandigarh to attend the first winter session of Haryana Legislative Assembly as the representative of her Julana constituency."

However, reports have emerged that an email sent by the UWW anti-doping department to Vinesh on December 20, 2024, stated, "We have taken due note of your retirement, which was communicated to the International Testing Agency (ITA) on the 20.12.2024."

The two-time World Championships medallist was sent a warning by International Testing Agency (ITA) for whereabouts failure for the same. However, concerns were raised on the news being leaked in the media.

Vinesh Phogat

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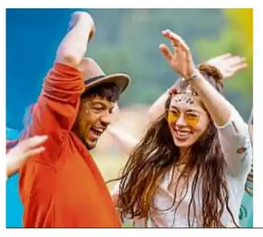

SPLASH BASH AT HOME
PAGE 02

SMART SIPS FOR THE SUMMER
PAGE 04

Bridge Health makes quality healthcare easily accessible

The focus of **Bridge Health Multispecialty Clinic** is on opening up easy and affordable access to state-of-the-art preventive healthcare, diagnostics, counselling and treatment

Tejasvi Surya, Member of Parliament (centre) with Bridge Health's director K C Ganesh (left) and CEO Karan Verma (right) at the inauguration of Bridge Health Multispecialty Clinic at JP Nagar 2nd Phase

For most Bengalureans, healthcare still begins only when something starts interfering with daily life. A headache gets ignored for days. Constant fatigue is brushed aside as work stress. Routine health check-ups keep getting delayed because there's never enough time. And when someone finally decides to visit a doctor, it often means dealing with traffic, crowded hospitals, long waiting hours and multiple appointments spread across different locations.

The just-launched Bridge Health Clinic at JP Nagar 2nd Phase makes that experience simple and approachable. Instead of functioning like a large hospital, the clinic focuses on bringing preventive and day-to-day healthcare closer to where people live. The new centre adds to Bridge Health's growing network of more than 55 clinics across Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune.

The multi-specialty clinic at JP Nagar 2nd Phase was inaugurated by Tejasvi Surya, Member of Parliament. The centre is a neighbourhood-focused healthcare model that brings together a comprehensive range of care under one roof, while placing greater emphasis on the root cause analysis and prevention.

The launch comes at a time when lifestyle-related health conditions are steadily rising across India. According to a Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) report published in Lancet, over 101 million Indians are currently living with diabetes. Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and cancer now contribute to nearly 60 per cent of deaths in the country. Doctors in Bengaluru say long working hours, sedentary routines, stress, irregular sleep patterns and delayed screenings are increasingly contributing to these health concerns, especially in urban populations.

Speaking at the inauguration, Tejasvi Surya said, "This clinic makes optimum use of technology. As the name suggests, it serves as a bridge between preventive wellness, nutrition advice, clinical care and emergency support for families. It reflects a very comprehensive approach and understanding of healthcare, especially in supporting those who are recovering after hospital treatment, while also helping prevent people from getting hospitalised in the first place. Accessibility, affordability and reliability are the three most important pillars of healthcare, and Bridge Health's growing network of neighbourhood clinics across Bengaluru, along with the comprehensiveness of its services, is truly unique. It will add greater credibility and help more people gain access to quality healthcare".

Comprehensive range of services

The clinic offers consultations, preventive health checks, dental care, fertility support, eye and hearing assessments, diabetes management, physiotherapy, nutrition counselling, AI-assisted screenings and diagnostics - all under one roof. Beyond the list of services, the larger focus is on continuity of care, allowing patients to move from consultation to testing and follow-up in a more seamless manner.

Karan Verma, CEO, Bridge Health, said, "At Bridge Health, we want to help people lead healthier and longer lives with a better quality of life. We strongly believe the future of healthcare lies in prevention, early detection and consistent care becoming a part of everyday living."

Supporting this approach is Bridge Health's digital ecosystem, including its App-based platform that helps create a centralised repository of patient health records, enabling doctors to track health patterns over time and support more continuous, preventive monitoring instead of fragmented episodic care.

For residents in south Bengaluru, that shift feels increasingly important. With packed schedules and growing health risks linked to urban lifestyles, people are now looking for healthcare that feels more accessible, less intimidating and easier to integrate into everyday life.

Bridge Health Multispecialty Clinic
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Bengaluru 560 078
Phone: +91 80470 93866
Email:
info@bridgehealthgroup.com
Website:
www.bridgehealth.in

Post-menopause signs women shouldn't ignore

There are safe treatments and support systems to treat symptoms of menopause and ensure women continue enjoying a good quality of life, explains **Dr Devika Gunasheela**, Managing Director, **Gunasheela Fertility Centre**

In case of many women, menopause is often reduced to a single event - periods stopping. But, the real transition begins much earlier and understanding that phase can make a significant difference to long-term health and quality of life.

Perimenopause is the natural transition period around menopause, where the ovaries slowly begin reducing hormone production. This phase can begin in the mid-to-late 40s and may last anywhere between one to even eight years before menopause actually occurs.

Menopause itself is the final stoppage of periods due to declining ovarian function and reduced production of estrogen and progesterone. However, the years leading up to it are often marked by dramatic physical and emotional changes.

One of the earliest signs is irregularity in periods. Cycles that were once predictable may suddenly become erratic, arriving every 45 or 60 days, becoming unusually heavy, extremely light or even occurring twice a month. The consistency of bleeding changes because estrogen production becomes unpredictable. Some women transition smoothly, while others experience heavy bleeding, clots and severe discomfort.

Alongside menstrual changes, women may also experience hot flashes, mood swings, irritability, hair fall, joints pain, disturbed sleep, thinning skin, vaginal dryness and reduced elasticity of tissues. Declining estrogen levels can also weaken the pelvic floor, leading to urine leakage while coughing, sneezing or laughing. A woman may suddenly feel emotional over something very minor, or experience unexplained anxiety and fatigue.

Dr Devika Gunasheela

However, one symptom should never be ignored - heavy bleeding or bleeding after menopause. Any bleeding after menopause must be investigated. Post-menopausal bleeding should never be dismissed as normal. Conditions such as polyps, thickening of the uterine lining or even endometrial cancer need to be ruled out through procedures such as hysteroscopy and biopsy.

Also, Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) has evolved significantly over the years. Earlier there was fear around HRT, but today it is understood that when started appropriately and monitored well it offers immense benefits.

HRT should ideally begin during the perimenopausal phase itself, when symptoms such as hot flashes, mood changes and sleep disturbances begin rather than waiting for periods to stop completely. Estrogen not only helps relieve symptoms, but also supports bone health, offers cardiovascular protection and may even slow cognitive decline. Baseline investigations such as bone density scans, cardiovascular assessments and screening for cancer are important before initiating therapy. Since many Indian women are also deficient in Vitamin D, calcium and Vitamin D supplements become essential to maintain bone strength during this phase.

Menopausal symptoms affecting intimacy and daily comfort are often ignored due to embarrassment. Treatments today range from vaginal estrogen creams and lubricants to pelvic floor rehabilitation and regenerative therapies such as platelet-rich plasma (PRP) for severe vaginal dryness and atrophy.

After menopause, women still deserve comfort, intimacy, confidence and a good quality of life. Women should not suffer silently through symptoms thinking it is just a part of ageing. There are safe treatments, therapies and support systems available today.

Fruit salads for glowing skin

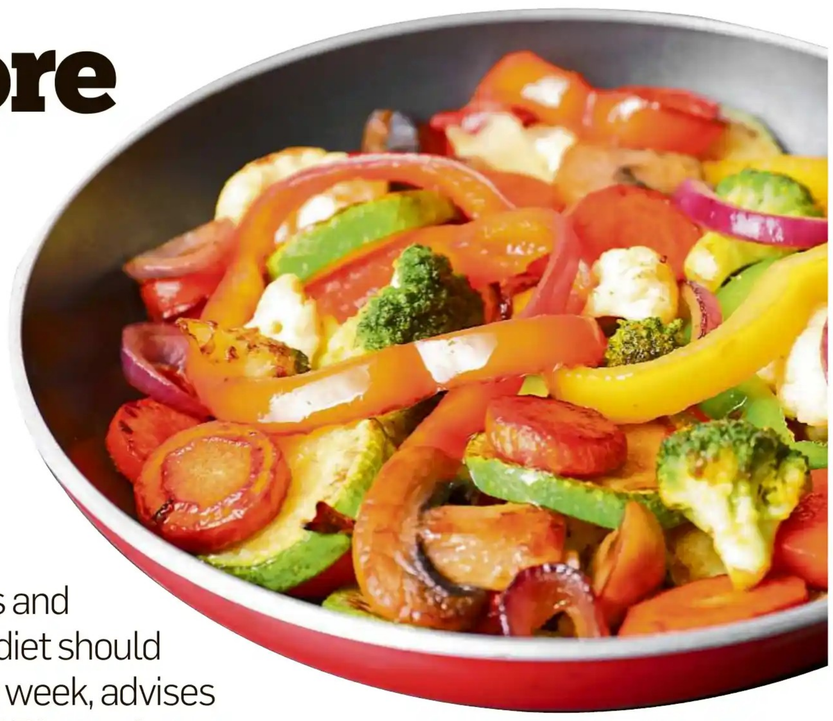
Citrus Salad

Mix of strawberries, oranges, kiwi, pomegranate and mint for flavour. Strawberry and citrus fruits are rich in Vitamin C and boost collagen production. Pomegranate is nutrient-dense and is packed with antioxidants. Together, these fruits help you in keeping your skin glowing and well-nourished.

Tropical Salad

Mix of papaya, avocado, mango, cucumber, lime juice and chia seeds. Papaya is rich in Vitamin A, and has enzymes that reduce inflammation and boost immunity. Avocado provides healthy fats and contains Vitamin E that promotes skin health. Mango, rich in Vitamin C, is good for the skin. This salad strengthens digestion and promotes clear skin.

Get more colour on your plate



The colour of vegetables and fruits is significant. Your diet should include all colours every week, advises clinical dietitian **Jahnavi Bhograj**

Colour code

You have heard it before – 'eat your vegetables'. But here is something worth knowing. It is not just how many vegetables you eat, but how many colours appear on your plate also makes a difference. Research calls these natural colours phytonutrients - plant compounds that give vegetables their vibrant hues and help protect the body from disease.

Think of each colour as offering something unique. Red, orange, green, purple and white vegetables provide nutrients that the others cannot replace entirely. So, when your plate looks colourful, your body receives a wider range of nourishment.

Red

Tomato, beetroot, red amaranth and pomegranate are rich in lycopene and anthocyanins, linked to heart health and healthy blood pressure. Traditional south Indian cooking gets this right naturally. Cooking tomato with a little oil or ghee as we do in rasam, chutney and sambar helps the body absorb lycopene more effectively. Science quietly supports the tadka.

Orange and yellow

Carrot, pumpkin, papaya, ripe mango and sweet potato are packed with beta-carotene, which the body converts into Vitamin A. These support eye health, immunity and skin health. Even turmeric, a staple in Indian cooking, contains curcumin, known for its anti-inflammatory properties. Pairing it with pepper and fat improves its absorption - another example of traditional food wisdom.

Green

This is where many fall short. Drumstick leaves, methi, palak, amaranth, ridge gourd and bitter gourd contain folate, lutein and other protective compounds important for the eyes, heart and brain. Vegetables such as cabbage and cauliflower are also being studied for their role in reducing cancer risk. Moringa leaves, freely available across south India, remain one of our most under-used nutrition treasures.

Purple

Brinjal, jamun, black grape, purple cabbage - the anthocyanins in these are now being studied for protecting memory and brain function as we age. Fortunately, south Indian meals already celebrate brinjal in many delicious ways. Including brinjal a few times a week is an easy and familiar way to add these protective pigments to the diet.

White

Garlic, onion, ginger and ash gourd may appear plain, but they are deeply nourishing foods. Garlic and onion contain allicin, one of Nature's most studied compounds for heart health.

Three colours every meal

The goal is simple aim for at least three colours at every meal and all five through the week. Our seasonal markets already provide this abundance naturally. Nature has given us colour in plenty. Eating with the seasons and adding variety to the plate is one of the simplest ways to nourish the body - one colourful meal at a time.

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Keep a few shower caps handy in case some guests prefer to keep the water from soaking their hair

RAIN MANE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

SAFE SURFACE

The ground needs to be safe for a rain dance. Avoid granite or any such floor that will turn slippery when it is wet. Ensure all surfaces which will get wet are rough and don't pose a threat to your guests walking around. Guests slipping can be a major risk at a rain dance party at home.

DRESS RIGHT

Tip off your guests on appropriate dress. Quick-drying synthetic clothes would be ideal. Heavy cottons and apparel such as jeans won't be suitable as they will drip water and take a long time to dry. Layering is a strict no-no. 'Dress for comfort rather than style' should be the code for a rain dance outing.

You don't need to wait for the monsoon for a rain dance at home. **Jayanthi Madhukar** explains

Splash bash at home

The summer has a way of making people crave for the monsoon. After days of the relentless sun beating down on you, the urge to dance in the rains feels almost instinctive, a throwback to childhood, when getting drenched and dancing freely was reason enough to step outside. But while the skies may take their time to cooperate, there is no reason to wait. A DIY rain dance party at home can recreate that carefree joy with surprising ease. It doesn't call for an elaborate setup - just a few clever hacks and a bit of planning.

At its simplest, a rain dance is exactly what it sounds like, water falling on you, good music and friends. Usually associated with monsoon celebrations or water parks, it has increasingly become a do-it-yourself affair. The appeal is obvious. A rain dance offers the illusion of monsoon before its arrival and a good way to relive your childhood nostalgia.

Setting it up

In practice, the set-up can be surprisingly easy. A garden hose rigged overhead of a sprinkler attached to a pipe can be enough. Ideally, the garden is the best place for the party but a terrace will do as well. Set up the garden hose or a series of plastic pipes with perforations mounted up on a frame and connect it to the water source. Make sure the floor is without any obstacles. If you are setting it up on the terrace then make sure it is away from the parapets, preferably held at the centre of the space. Also, ensure the area has good drainage. At the boundary of the rain dance stage, place enough rubber mats to minimise water trailing to other areas of the terrace. Anti-slip mats in key areas, minimal furniture and careful placement of electricals go a long way.

It's very important to have a convenient changing area for guests to change after the party. Place enough towels and make them easily accessible.

Ambiance and decor

Focus on the ambiance. If it is held in the evening, dim lighting, cool-toned LEDs and even a single spotlight can transform a basic spray into something more cinematic. You could have string lights for the terrace.

In the glow of the light, falling water becomes more visible, almost theatrical. Extension cords and speakers should be elevated or sealed.

What distinguishes these gatherings from conventional parties is the informality. Guests arrive in clothes they don't mind getting soaked in. Footwear is often abandoned at the door. There is little choreography beyond what the music dictates. The emphasis is on movement rather than performance.

Table matters

During and after the rain dance party, you will need to feed the guests. Having a full meal will be inconvenient as it will need relegated seating area. So, anything that requires cutlery, careful plating or dry hands is immediately at a disadvantage.

Instead, opt for light snacks and finger foods. Few things feel more appropriate in simulated rain than a plate of pakoras or bhajis, fried just before serving so they retain their crunch. Corn chaat and its likes work well too because they are light, sharp and easy to scoop between songs. Skewers of grilled paneer, small sandwiches, even bite-sized wraps, hold up better than anything plated. The goal is to minimise pause - guests should be able to eat, wipe hands and return to the dance.

Hydration matters, so keep lime juice, iced tea, coconut water etc to maintain energy levels steady. If you want something festive, simple cocktails or mocktails work best when premixed and served in sturdy glasses that won't slip easily.

Tune it right

Music is the life of any party, but it becomes the protagonist in a rain dance party. Include songs with catchy beats and crowd favourites which can be sung along. Waterproof Bluetooth speakers are ideal for such outdoor parties. Even a great speaker won't perform well if it is placed badly. It helps to elevate it, on a stool or a shelf, so the sound travels above water level rather than getting muffled. Angling it inwards, towards the centre of the space instead of out into open air, keeps the music focused and fuller.

If possible, use two speakers for stereo pairing – it can significantly improve the experience, adding depth and volume. And while most portable speakers are water-resistant, it's still wise to keep them slightly outside the main splash zone.

Beetle Bailey

I FINISHED PAINTING THE SIGN
AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO BE FUNNY?
MEN WORKING
GREG + MORT WALKER
1/23
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

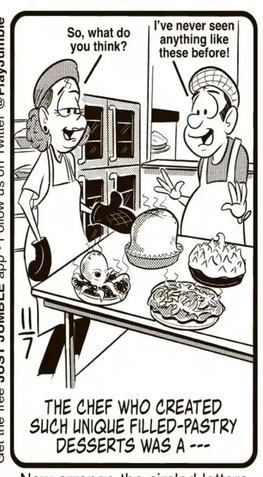
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PTREC

TECIH

NGULEP

SIOGPS


So, what do you think?
I've never seen anything like these before!
THE CHEF WHO CREATED SUCH UNIQUE FILLED-PASTRY DESSERTS WAS A ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " - " "

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Answers

CREPT ETHIC PLUNGE GOSSIP

The chef who created such unique filled-pastry desserts was a — "PIE-ONEER"

HITORI-145

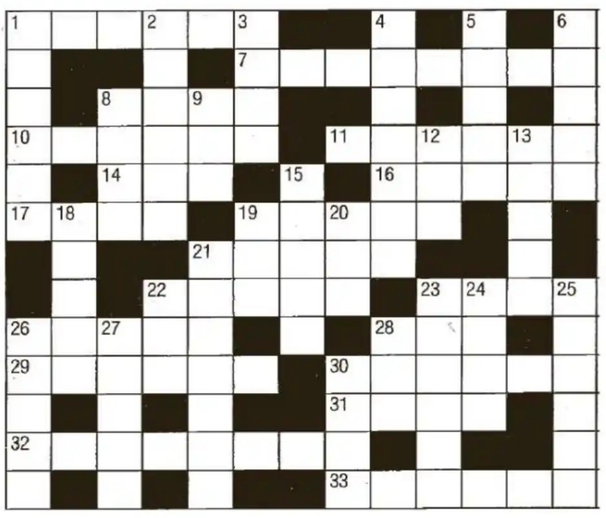
5	5	3	8	7	8	4	4
6	4	8	3	2	2	8	4
8	1	4	8	5	3	7	6
2	3	6	7	3	6	5	8
8	4	7	4	2	6	3	6
1	6	5	6	4	7	2	3
3	6	1	5	8	4	3	2
4	2	3	1	6	2	8	7

SOLUTION for HITORI-145

7	8	■	6	1	■	2	4
2	■	4	8	5	1	6	3
3	1	5	■	6	4	7	2
■	3	6	2	■	7	4	■
8	5	■	3	7	6	■	2
6	3	7	5	■	4	1	8
4	■	2	■	8	3	■	6
■	4	8	7	■	5	3	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 146



EASY

ACROSS
1 Emergency (6)
7 Odd (8)
8 Nobleman (4)
10 Fruit (6)
11 Entry (6)
14 Sheltered side (3)
16 Snow leopard (5)
17 Singing voice (4)
19 Rascal (5)
21 Cringe (5)
22 Autonomous Chinese region (5)
23 Gusted (4)
26 Intolerant person (5)
28 Shade (3)
29 Skilful (6)
30 Flaunt (6)
31 Among (4)
32 Set of bones (8)
33 Spatter (6)

DOWN
1 Ballroom dance (3-3)
2 Hi-fi (6)
3 Nimble (4)
4 Aid (7)
5 Broaden (5)
6 Originate (5)
8 Animal skin (4)
9 Before (3)
12 Signal (3)
13 Group of twenty (5)
15 Turret (5)
18 Clear (5)
19 Steal (3)
20 Obtain (3)
21 Inhabitant (7)
22 Also (3)
23 Interment (6)
24 Heavy metal (4)
25 Spanner (6)
26 Light wood (5)
27 Colour (5)
28 Bad actor (3)
30 Cooking vessels (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 He needs a jump start and a replacement spare (6)
7 As always, rebuilding Rome would take no end of time (8)
8 Keep in your head (4)
10 A meths product well known to be nonflammable (6)
11 According to this stone, Zion included a central circle (6)
14 For an alien to be after money, is permitted (3)
16 Like poor people in penury on the fourth of July (5)
17 Animals seen around Derwentwater (4)
19 A sweet, ultimately soft drink (5)
21 Notedly good-hearted humorist (5)
22 Recipient of a tax note? (5)
23 What Ananias did, in song (4)
26 Senior member having a desire to act (5)
28 Cough or breathe on them! (3)
29 Heavenly community centre managed by the Americans (6)
30 Treated like rubbish (6)
31 Advanced piece of music, possibly burdensome (4)
32 As the saying goes, there's nothing I'm sharp about shifting (8)
33 Join the staggeringly silent service? (6)

DOWN
1 By Edward, Jill's endlessly disappointed in love (6)
2 A better book? (6)
3 At snooker, they aren't so good as the blacks (4)
4 Of a horse, a shoe? (7)
5 Strength needed for finishing the race? (5)
6 She isn't quite worthless (5)
8 Mere meal provider? (4)
9 Like the prices in the wine trade (3)
12 The traveller again needs parking (3)
13 Cry of enthusiasm about one girl from another (5)
15 Aptly enough, they're involved in the noble art (5)
18 Outcome of a trial? (5)
19 Happiness is a woman ... (3)
20 ... while shelter may also be a man (3)
21 Twelve months start (7)
22 Writer showing points to a political leader (3)
23 A name, in some general elections, for European monetary union (6)
24 Is including a politician with certain inhabitants of Lincoln (4)
25 Cut the price at the takeaway? (6)
26 Maud's misguided in becoming a writer (5)
27 Could you sail it with a companion in going up the Tay? (5)
28 Historic vandal, but there's a French one at the hotel (3)
30 Less than a good omen for the millennium? (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 146

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, J-asper 7, Ever-more 8, Mind 10, Thames 11, Zi-rc-on 14, L-E-T 16, Need-y 17, De-er 19, Jule-p 21, J-OK-E-r 22, PAYE-E 23, Lied 26, Do-yen 28, H-'em 29, U-ran-US 30, Dumped 31, On-us 32, Aph-O-rism 33, Enlist.
DOWN: 1, Jil-Ted 2, Primer 3, Reds 4, Trainer 5, For-ce 6, Penny 8, Male 9, Net 12, Re-P 13, O-Dile 15, Dukes 18, Error 19, Joy 20, Lee 21, January 22, P-EN 23, L-EMU-el 24, I-MP-s 25, Deduct 26, Dumas 27, Ya-CH-T 28, H-un 30, Dome.

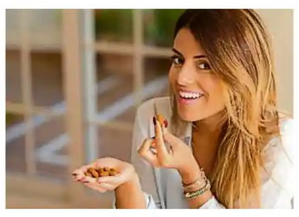
EASY
ACROSS: 1, Crisis 7, Peculiar 8, Peer 10, Cherry 11, Access 14, Lee 16, Ounce 17, Alto 19, Rogue 21, Cower 22, Tibet 23, Blew 26, Bigot 28, Hue 29, Adroit 30, Parade 31, Amid 32, Skeleton 33, Splash.
DOWN: 1, Cha-cha 2, Stereo 3, Spry 4, Succour 5, Widen 6, Arise 8, Pelt 9, Ere 12, Cue 13, Score 15, Tower 18, Lucid 19, Rob 20, Get 21, Citizen 22, Too 23, Burial 24, Lead 25, Wrench 26, Balsa 27, Green 28, Ham 30, Pans.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. FASHION

A mix of nuts, dry fruits and yogurt with breakfast will give you a high-energy day

EAT RIGHT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE



DON'T GO OVER-BOARD

Ideally, have around 30 gm of nuts every day. Don't have the same nut every day. Some people are allergic to some nuts. So, test first with a few nuts before trying a variety you haven't had before. Portion control matters – you cannot make a meal of nuts. Check with your dietician before making it a part of your daily meals.

NATURAL IS IDEAL

Avoid deep-fried and salted nuts - you will compromise on their goodness. For best effect, eat nuts as they are rather than processed and made into finger food. A handful of nuts can be a great pick-me-up snack when low on energy. Nuts come with many health benefits. A dietician will tell you which ones are for you.

Modern shirt story's all about self-expression

The shirt is no longer just a functional garment. It's at the heart of a well-dressed man's wardrobe, says **Prasad Bidapa**

Nutty Facts

Almond

This nut is associated with festivals and celebrations. It is rich in Vitamin E and magnesium. It is known to be good for heart health. It helps regulate blood sugar levels. It is a good source of protein and fibre. This nut is good for your skin too. Also, it fills you and thereby helps in weight management.

Walnut

This nut is rich in Omega-3 fatty acids. It is said to support brain and heart health. Walnut is rich in antioxidants that help reduce inflammation. It is also rich in fibre and strengthens digestion. It is believed to reduce the risk of cancer – especially breast and prostate cancer.

This nut is often used in cooking. It is used to flavour some desserts and serves as a garnish too. Cashew nut is a good source of copper, zinc and magnesium. It supports bone health and boosts the immune system. Its fat content is lower compared to other nuts. It's best-eaten as it is rather than deep-fried or salted.

PISTACHIO

It is high in both protein and fibre content. It is known to reduce bad cholesterol. Pista is rich in Vitamin B6. It contains potassium and beneficial fats that promote healthy eyes, reduce inflammation and strengthen digestion. It is best-eaten raw rather than as a processed food.

Peanut

This is a commonly consumed nut. It is a part of many local dishes. Peanut is high in protein. It gives you essential minerals that promote heart health by lowering bad cholesterol. It is also rich in antioxidants and helps prevent cell damage. It is a good snack for energy after a heavy gym session.

Fashion Notes

A man's wardrobe today is no longer built around just a few basic shirts. Modern menswear has evolved into a sophisticated world of style, personality, comfort and occasion dressing. From sharply-tailored office shirts to relaxed casual silhouettes, from elegant formals to dramatic party wear, men today have a remarkable range of choices that reflect both lifestyle and individuality.

At the heart of every well-dressed man's wardrobe lies a strong shirt collection. The crisp white shirt remains the ultimate essential - timeless, versatile and effortlessly elegant. It works equally well with a business suit, denim or even layered under a jacket for eveningwear.

Equally important is the pale blue shirt, perhaps the most universally-flattering colour in menswear. Alongside these classics, contemporary wardrobes are increasingly embracing earthy neutrals, dusty pinks, muted olives, soft greys, ivory, mocha and sophisticated beige tones.

It's understated luxury for office

For office wear, modern dressing is now about understated luxury rather than overt branding. Men are choosing refined fabrics like Egyptian cotton, stretch cotton blends, lightweight poplins and wrinkle-resistant materials that combine elegance with practicality. Softer tailoring, cleaner cuts and breathable fabrics suited to India's climate have become essential. Subtle stripes, micro checks and tonal textures add sophistication without appearing loud.

Formal shirts have also become more nuanced and luxurious. Instead of plain surfaces, designers are introducing herringbone weaves, tonal jacquards, dobby textures and self-patterned fabrics that add richness and depth. Deep navy, charcoal, ivory and monochromatic styling continue to dominate the formalwear space. The modern formal shirt is polished, refined and quietly confident.

New-look casuals

Casual shirts, meanwhile, have undergone most transformation. Linen continues to lead the trend, especially in warmer climates, where comfort and sophistication must coexist. Relaxed Cuban collars, oversized silhouettes, brushed cotton checks, chambrays, denim shirts and handloom-inspired fabrics are increasingly popular.

Men are also embracing artisanal textiles, handcrafted details and subtle prints that add individuality to everyday dressing.

Focus on texture at the party

Party wear shirts today are far more sophisticated than the flashy styles of the past. Modern eveningwear focuses on texture, fluidity and mood. Rich satins, soft velvets, metallic accents, tonal embroidery, jewel tones and dramatic black-on-black styling define contemporary party dressing. A statement shirt paired with tailored trousers or a sharply-cut jacket creates a look that feels modern, confident and effortless.

The most stylish men today understand one important truth - shirts are no longer merely functional garments. They are powerful tools of self-expression. The right shirt can transform a man's posture, confidence and presence completely. In many ways, the story of modern menswear begins - and often ends - with the perfect shirt.

Why not give your hairstyle a fun twist with tiny braids and colourful accessories? **Shilpi Madan** has some ideas

GOOD HAIR DAYS

Jewellery for your tresses is just what you need for that instant glam quotient pump-up when you sashay in. Accentuate your locks with daring partings along your scalp, marked by winking rings and beads for a touch of sass.

Here's your to-do guide:

Ring it

Small metallic rings in champagne and rose gold, shiny silver and brooding brass are making their presence felt in locks. Actor Priyanka Chopra recently knotted her locks in braids with tiny rings. Light and alluring, the rings can be clasped around the hair easily and removed with equal ease, lending a polished and fashionable look to your hair.

For that couture touch, make way for clips and headbands with a couturish edge that rev up your appearance.

Slim braids

Make use of mini, colourful bands to wrap up the braid, and bring in a ring to add that element of sparkle when you move around. You can also work in the tiny braids on either side of your face to arrange the locks in a neat look and then offset with stylish hair accessories such as slim rings or thick cuffs.

Accessories for glamour

Tiny accessories in the hair accentuate your face. When you place a ring in the braid near your temple, it draws attention to your cheekbones. Above the crown, it marks your widow's peak. Fine hair chains in champagne hues also link the different braids to create a boho-look. Team up with a lively bandana to offset the cuffs to advantage. Delicate rings woven into the hairstyle is a trend that has appeared on the global runways as well as with models seen sporting braids marked with tiny rings.

Some handy hints

- You can sweep up your hair in a ponytail or work on your hair parting
- Cleverly looped hair makes the accessories look embedded
- Mini charms and pendants, a bit of crystal and pixie dust get your tresses talking as well

Neck-deep in fashion

Let your neck accessory accentuate your personality, says **Shilpi Madan**

It's a subtle statement of the fashionable kind! Get a grip on the latest in neck wear. From chokers to long pieces, the adornments have gained a beautiful, rhythmic complexion.

Flower power

Engage the power of florals. Pressed flowers laced into an origami-like creation move into a string to make your neckline stand out. A corded corsage, a preserved marigold or sunflower in a pendant helps you get the power of the sun around your neck.

Blooms bring in a sense of flourish to every look. Play around with different sizes - from minimalist flowers to large florals with a smattering of winking stones to set the sparkle in.

Go functional

When the neck adornment serves a purpose beyond the pretty! A micro-pouch for a locker key, a clasped clip for a nostalgic thumb-sized photograph, folded mini glasses or even a monocle for reading and credit card stackers in a stylish zip-up are forming the latest accessory around the neck.

Add a spot of glamour with your favourite cartoon character.

Chains and cords

Go for leather braids and unique chains to lock in the pair of stylish sunglasses as a dangler around your neck. Bring in the sleek, stylish cords to ensure the focal point is the statement piece on the neck.

Leather straps with mystic shells picked up from the beach during your last beach holiday work beautifully. Encrusted heirloom pendants – with a family picture held within - are also perfect for building stacks that elevate your appearance with a touch of nostalgia and unique charm. Cheers to functional fashion, finally.

Layer up

Indulge in a spot of your own storytelling by bringing in different layers. Fine or feisty, long or short, simply stylish or boho, make way for different dimensions and create neck stackers to reflect your own personality. Personalisation plays a key role in anchoring your appearance. The magic of summer brings in wispy cuts and pastel hues to let your accessories take centre-stage.

Style File

Keep in mind...

- Less is more. Choose just one accessory around the neck
- A small pick works well if you are big-built. A petite frame can carry a larger pick
- You can reimagine coin carriers and mini lipstick cases as the pendant too

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Curd can be used as a base for your veggie salads. A pinch of salt, pepper and roasted cumin powder adds flavour

SUMMER BYTE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

YOGURT AND CUCUMBER SALAD

This is a great idea in the summer. Cucumber and yogurt boost your hydration while mint adds freshness. Cucumber is high on hydration with 95 per cent water. You can add a pinch of roasted cumin and salt for flavour. It is easy to prepare and can be carried to work along with lunch.

VEGGIE SALAD WITH MOONG

If you want something that is both hydrating and protein-rich, this is your salad. Combine sprouted moong dal (green gram) with cucumber, tomato and onion slices. You can add lemon juice and coriander leaves for flavour. It is filling, hydrating and nutritious.

Summer **Treat**

Goodness of watermelon

Watermelon is a must-have fruit in summer. It consists of 92 per cent water, giving you the hydration you need through the hot months. It is rich in nutrition, and packed with antioxidants that reduce inflammation and are believed to lower risk of cancer. This hydrating fruit helps in weight management and promotes healthy skin.

Fruity salad

Get more from your daily veggie salad by adding watermelon to it. It gives your salad some crunch and works as a natural sweetener. Light in calories, it adds to the nutrition content of your veggie salads. You also get more hydration with some watermelon in your salad. A versatile fruit, you can add it to any salad.

CREAMY AND SALTY

Watermelon paired with salty cheese is a great salad. Feta cheese will balance the watermelon's sweet taste and make the salad creamy. Soft and easily digestible, you can refrigerate it to make it a cold salad that's just right for the hot afternoons. It is also a good bite in between meals to beat a hunger pang.

HERBS FOR FRESHNESS

Just plain watermelon slices with a generous dose of herbs will be a treat on a hot day. Slice watermelon into thin and small pieces. Add mint, a favourite choice in this weather, along with coriander and Tulasi. You can also add seeds to make it heavier. The hydration and soothing effect of the herbs makes it a great energy booster.

Hydrating punch

Add watermelon to a cucumber, carrot and radish salad. The fruit's softness contrasts well with the hard veggies. All these three veggies are rich in water content and the watermelon will add to it, making the salad just right for the summer days. This is a good salad to carry with you for a snack between meals.

Smart sips for the summer days

Shilpi Madan puts some smart sips together that are hydrating, refreshing and nutritious

If you have been slowing down on outdoor activities to avoid dehydration, here are a few cool sips to get you going through your days refreshed. They give you the nutrition you need too. So, go ahead and make them a part of your daily diet.

Heat-**Beat**

Energy boost

By dietitian Deepalekha Bannerjee

Iced matcha with coconut water
This combines the sustained energy of matcha (caffeine with L-theanine) with the natural electrolytes of coconut water. It helps you stay focused during exercises without the crash.

Fresh watermelon juice
With 92 per cent water content and natural sugars, watermelon juice is an extremely refreshing sip in summer and an excellent pre- and post-workout drink. It contains L-citrulline, an amino acid that improves blood flow and aids in muscle recovery.

Sattu sharbat
It is a traditional desi protein-rich drink made from roasted gram flour. Mixed with chilled or lukewarm water, lemon, and black salt, it provides long-lasting energy and keeps the body cool, making it ideal for the summer months.

Pomegranate juice
Pomegranate is packed with antioxidants and lends a glow to your skin. Drink the juice to prevent muscle soreness. It results in faster recovery after intense runs or aerobic sessions.

Beetroot juice
Rich in nitrates, beetroot juice enhances oxygen delivery to muscles. Consuming it 90 minutes before a cardio work-out session can significantly improve endurance and reduce fatigue. It props up your haemoglobin effectively as well.

Hydration with nutrition

By nutritionist Parag Desai

Lemon honey water with rock salt
A balanced electrolyte, this is an alternative to coconut water. This simple drink replenishes sodium lost through sweat as you exercise in the hot weather. The honey provides quick-release glucose for immediate energy.

Warm green tea
An excellent way to jog the fat cells, it helps beat sluggishness. A combination of green tea, a dash of lime and ginger is thermogenic - it helps burn fat and boost metabolism. The lime brings in a refreshing citrus kick in summer.

Seasonal juices
Bel sherbet and sugarcane juice are excellent coolers that bring in the sugar spike instantly when you are feeling dehydrated. They come packed with minerals such as magnesium and potassium which help prevent muscle cramps.

Friends, fun and learning on the side

You can learn something from your hang-outs at home. **Shilpi Madan** explains

You've shared your wardrobe, secrets and vacations. It is time now to share skillsets to make the hang-outs with friends more interesting. Here are some ways in which you can bring in a fun spin with your buddies at home.

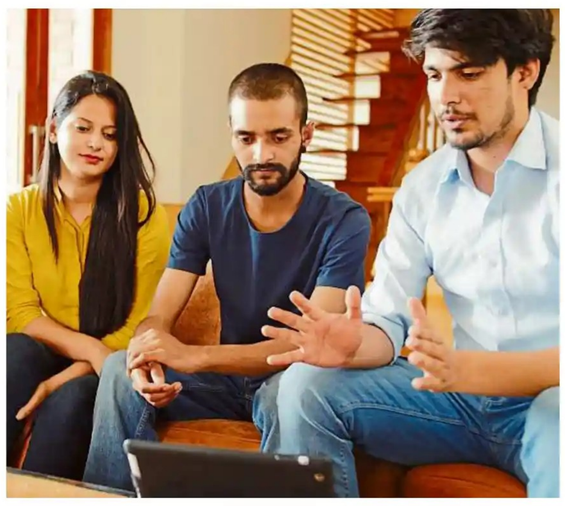
Time it right
Choose a weekend or a mid-week holiday to schedule the gathering. Allocate 20 minutes for an 'ask me what you want' session. A doctor buddy can share gyan on hygiene, timely eating or niggling issues you didn't know whom else to ask for guidance. A well-dressed friend could share some fabulous grooming tips.

Keep it simple
Avoid the jargon. Skip presentations and tough talk. This could be about bartending at home, making micro cocktails, pairing ingenious ingredients for unique flavours, or even painting or origami. Let it flow, no pressure.

Friend **Zone**

Set the stage
Comfortable, chill, casual. Relax and set the vibe. Keep floor seating handy and let everyone have a go at the session. This revs up the engagement level and makes way for fun, memorable moments filled with bloopers, laughter, pictures and anecdotes. That's half the fun of getting together, isn't it?

Make it fun
Have small prizes or invent whacky titles for the person who invested deeply into the session and came up with sparklers. It adds to the fun quotient. Choose the background music in keeping with the vibe of the crowd. Arrange for bite-sized munchies to keep the rhythm going without breaking off for a heavy-duty meal.



Detox with yoga

Don't have the time to indulge in elaborate detoxification? Yoga therapist **Krupa Patel** has three simple asanas that help you detox

Detox was never more significant than it is these days. You are increasingly exposed to more toxins than ever before – pollution in the environment you breathe in and the food consumed daily are just two examples. The hectic lifestyles and consequently the inability to indulge in regular detox is affecting the health of many.

Thankfully, all isn't lost. A simple daily yoga detox routine can help you get rid of the dangerous toxins you have accumulated. It helps your body's natural detoxification process by improving blood circulation to your vital detoxifying organs - liver, kidneys and lymphatic system. Here are three yoga asanas you need to practice daily for two months every year:

Work **Out**

Paschimottanasana

This asana stimulates the abdomen. It promotes digestion and prevents constipation. It helps cleanse the digestive system.

Performing the asana
Extend both legs straight out in front of you while seated. Place your palms on the floor next to your hips. As you inhale, raise your hands above your head straight with fingers pointing to the roof. Stretch your spine up. As you exhale, bend from you hips to touch your toes while keeping your spine straight. Hold the position for a few seconds while breathing deep. Repeat five times.

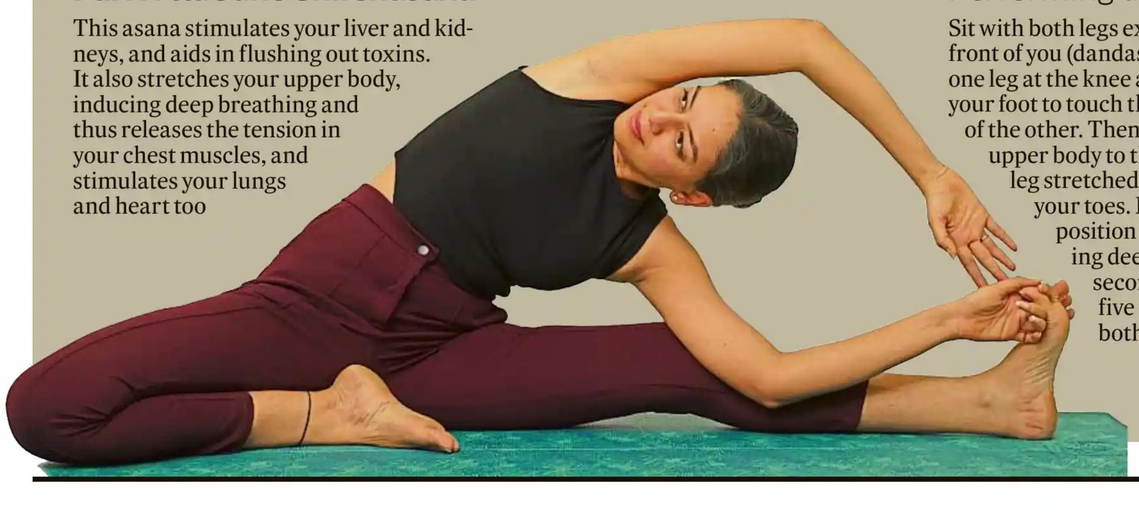
Upavistha Marjaryasana

This gentle and repetitive spinal stretch helps lymphatic fluid move through lymphatic vessels and thus detoxifies your whole system and even reduces internal inflammation.

Performing the asana
While sitting cross-legged, stretch your arms forward. As you exhale, curve your spine outwards and as you inhale move your arms behind your back and expand your chest. Repeat for two minutes.

Parivrtta Janu Shirshasana

This asana stimulates your liver and kidneys, and aids in flushing out toxins. It also stretches your upper body, inducing deep breathing and thus releases the tension in your chest muscles, and stimulates your lungs and heart too



Performing the asana
Sit with both legs extended in front of you (dandasana). Bend one leg at the knee and bring your foot to touch the inner thigh of the other. Then bend your upper body to the side of the leg stretched out and touch your toes. Hold the position while breathing deep for a few seconds. Repeat five times each on both sides.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large are hereby informed that Smt.Vijayalakshmi W/o Late Mr.Nagaraja Reddy, Mr.Chethan and Mr.Dhanpal Reddy N., who are the children of Late Mr.Nagaraja Reddy are also the legal heirs of Mr.Hanumappa.

Mr.Hanumappa was the absolute owner of Sy.No.12/2 and Mr.S.N.Kashyap was the absolute owner of Sy.No.12/3, both situated at Arakere Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. Earlier Mr.Hanumappa filed a Suit for Injunction in O.S.No.2294/1991, claiming that Mr.S.N.Kashyap was interfering with 06 Guntas of Land, which claimed to be the part of Sy.No.12/2. In the said Suit, Commissioner/Surveyor was appointed and based on his Report, the said Suit came to be dismissed stating Mr.S.N.Kashyap/his legal heirs are the owners of the said 06 Guntas of Land. The same was appealed before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka in RFA No.1241/2006, in which the Order of the Lower Court was upheld.

During the pendency of the said Suit, to defeat the claim of Mr.S.N.Kashyap, a collusive Partition Deed dated 16/08/2002 came to be executed by showing as if the said 06 Guntas were allotted to the share of wife and children of Mr.Nagaraja Reddy. M/s Rose Garden Housing Developers Pvt Ltd., subsequently became the absolute owner of the said 06 Guntas of Land in Sy.No.12/3 stated above. Since the aforesaid legal heirs of Mr.Hanumappa were encroaching upon the said land,M/s Rose Garden Housing Developers Pvt Ltd., filed a Suit for Declaration in O.S.No.7613/2023 and obtained Interim Order of Restraint. The same was challenged in MFA No.6250/2024 by the aforesaid legal heirs of Mr.Hanumappaon the ground that based on the Partition, Sy.No.12/2 was poded and the said 06 Guntas was numbered as Sy.No.12/4 and Khatha is standing in the name of Mrs.Vijayalakshmi, Mr.Chethan and Mr.Dhanpal Reddy N. The said MFA came to be dismissed. M/s Rose Garden Housing Developers Pvt Ltd., has now amalgamated with our clients i.e., M/s Nambiar International Investment Pvt Ltd.

Now, Smt.Vijayalakshi, Mr.Chethan and Mr.Dhanpal Reddy N are now trying to alienate the said property under Sy.No. 12/4. The said 06 Guntas of land earlier in dispute in the cases is the same piece of land on which now the said parties are claiming as Sy.No.12/4.

Therefore, Public at Large are hereby warned not to deal with the above said property in any manner and whoever are doing so are doing so at their own risk.

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ramakrishna M G,** R/at No.10, Borewell Road, Annasandrapalya, HAL, Bengaluru - 560017, have changed our minor son's name from **MANYAM RAMAKRISHNA TEJASWIN ACHARI** to **TEJASWIN MANYAM ACHARY** vide affidavit dated 08.05.2026 before notary S. Samuel Solomon, Bengaluru. Henceforth he shall be called as **TEJASWIN MANYAM ACHARY** only.

I, RASHMI W/o Manish Kumar R/a #G12 Block C Sumadhura Srinivasam Seetharampalya, Hoodi Bangalore 560048 have changed my Name to RASHMI SINGH vide affidavit dated 5.5.2026 before notary J Anand Kumar Bangalore

I, VEENA OMPRAKASH resident of No.56, G1 Windsor Zenith Charles Campbell Road, Cox Town, Fraser Town, Bengaluru-560005 have changed my name to VEENA OMPRAKASH LUND vide affidavit dated 06/05/2026 sworn before notary Jalandhara, Bengaluru

I, SHAKUNTALA resident of No.617, 8th Main, 4th Cross, BHCS Layout, Chikkallasandra, Bengaluru-560061 have changed my name to SHAKUNTHALA vide affidavit dated 06/05/2026 sworn before notary Jalandhara, Bengaluru

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*Conditions apply

More value, more impact

Classifieds

PRESTIGE GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

ARKAWATHY LAYOUT | RAMPURA | GEDDALAHALLI

ICSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2025-2026

Congratulations

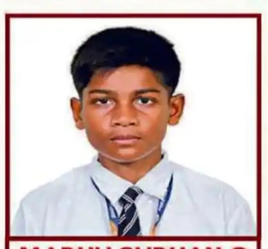
TO OUR PROUD PRESTIGIANS

DHANVITHA B M
98%
PRESTIGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

SAKSHAM PATIL
94.6%
PRESTIGE SCHOOL

DEVIKA A M
93.8%
PRESTIGE SCHOOL

BABITHA M
93%
PRESTIGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



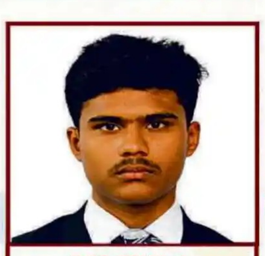
MADHU SUDHAN G
92.2%
PRESTIGE SCHOOL

BHAVANA SHREE M
92%
PRESTIGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

RISHIK A S
91%
PRESTIGE SCHOOL

TANMAY YOHANNES NASA 91%
PRESTIGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

RAMNA CHOUDHARY
87.6%
PRESTIGE SCHOOL



PRAJWAL J
87%
PRESTIGE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

DELIVERING SUCCESS WITH CONSISTENCY

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www.prestigegroupofinstitutions.com

MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

Girinagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru – 50.

Congratulations to all our Students for their excellent achievement in X Board Examination 2025 - 26

96.8%
POSHIKA NAIDU THUMMALA

96.4%
GAURAV R

95.6%
HIRANMAYEE PRADEEP

94.56%
MITHUN KUMAR M S

94.2%
HARSHIL S

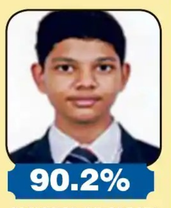
94.00%
SRIHARI K R

91.8%
SAMARTH KUMAR M

91.36%
SUPRIYA R

91.2%
NAVANEETH K GOWDA

90.8%
B K DHANUSH



90.2%
AYUSH M NAIR

90.00%
ABHINAV KUMAR S

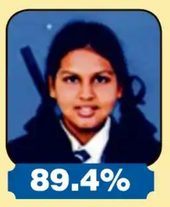
90.00%
TANUSHA B K

89.8%
PINKY JAIN

89.6%
ACHINTHYA K

89.6%
VISMAYA B V

89.6%
SIRI S S



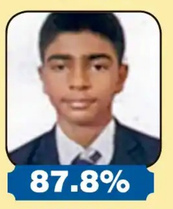
89.4%
SAANIKA C

89.4%
SAANVI R

89.2%
SAMVITH R S

88.8%
VISHESH R ACHAR

88.4%
SUPREETH D KASHYAP



87.8%
ARYAN B R

87.2%
BHAKTI V GOYAL

87.2%
GAGAN S

87.2%
SRAJAN HEGDE

86.8%
TRISHA D

86.2%
DHAATHRI N

85.92%
DIGANTH S D

85.6%
KAVYA B

85.2%
HARSH HIREN DHAKAN

85.00%
SAANVI S GRAMOPADHYE

85.00%
YAMUNA H N

85.00%
KUSHAL M PATEL

84.7%
SHARADA H RAGHAVENDRA

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Recognised by the Government of Karnataka & Affiliated to CISCE, New Delhi –KA160

#1, T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru -560057. Tel : 080-28392711 E-mail: sln.smps@gmail.com, www: stmarys-school.in

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our Heartfelt Congratulations to our achievers for their outstanding performance in the SSLC and ICSE Board Examinations 2026. The institution proudly records a 100% results, marking the 27th consecutive year of success in SSLC and the 17th consecutive year of success in ICSE

STUDENTS APPEARED	143
Distinctions	112
I Class	30
II Class	01
Students Scored 95% and above	36
Centum	86

SHAMITHA P
99.20%
620/625

100% RESULTS

S.S.L.C. TOPPERS 2025-26

ROHINI ARER
99.04%-619/625

NISHMITHA V
99.04%-619/625

THANUSH GOWDA M S
98.72%-617/625

DEVANK REDDY M
98.56%-616/625

SHREYAS N R
98.24%-614/625

GOUNIPURAM SANDHYA
97.76%-611/625

SRUJAN BALU R
97.60%-610/625

SRISTI KHANDELIA
97.44%-609/625

THANMAYEE J S
97.44%-609/625

HARSHA R SHIDENUR
97.44%-609/625

MANJUNATH
97.12%-607/625

SHRIVARSHA B AVATAGI
97.12%-607/625

MAHALAKSHMI M
97.12%-607/625

TRIVENI B C
96.64%-604/625

DEVESH M
96.64%-604/625

ADVAIT MURARI
96.64%-604/625

B N SEVANTHI
96.64%-604/625

MOHAMMED ASHRAF I NADAF
96.48%-603/625

YASHASWINI P
96.32%-602/625

AINIKA BANU M K
96.32%-602/625

SHRESHTA N
96.32%-602/625

DHANUSH GOWDA N
96%-600/625

SNEHA K M
96%-600/625

RUTHVIK H
95.84%-599/625

SIDDARTHA G S
95.84%-599/625

NAMRATHA H
95.68%-598/625

YASHAS GOWDA H
95.68%-598/625

KANISHKAR M
95.68%-598/625

KARUNYA SANGEETHA N
95.68%-598/625

TANUSHREE B R
95.52%-597/625

AMAYA K PRADEEP
95.52%-597/625

AKSHAY N
95.20%-595/625

SEVANTH D B
95.20%-595/625

POORVITHA S M
95.04%-594/625

SUPREETH K M
95.04%-594/625

STUDENTS APPEARED	138
Distinctions	67
I Class	68
II Class	03
Students Scored 90% and above	38
Centums	09

D THEJAS
98.2%
491/500

100% RESULTS

ICSE TOPPERS 2025-26

S NAVATEJ GOWDA
97.4%

PRIYA PATIL
97.2%

ADITI M HUDEDMANI-96.8%

SWAPNA B PUJARI
96.2%

DEEKSHITH DINESH SHETTY - 96%

SHIVANI A
95.6%

VARSHA M S
95%

ANUSHKAA CHAKRABORTI-94.8%

LIKITH G GOWDA
94.4%

SUMANA R
94.4%

YASHICA KULKARNI
94.2%

M KIRAN
94%

PRAGNA H C
93%

SINCHANA SHANKAR GOUDA - 93%

SANJANA BHIMA GOUDA- 92.8%

VAISHNAVI M
92.8%

ANANYA K
92.6%

RAKSHIIT M N
92.4%

GNANA GANGA S P
92%

MITHUN G
92%

NEETHU SHREE D
92%

K S RAJESWARI
92%

KUSUMANJALI T
91.8%

DRUPAD B S
91.6%

HARI S KUMAR
91.6%

VIJAYA LAXMI
91.6%

ABHISHEK C
91.4%

THARUN B R
91.4%

PRUTHVI K N
91.2%

DHANUSH P GOWDA - 91%

SREYA SUJESH
90.8%

KARTHIK
90.6%

P HEMANTH
90.6%

MONISHA R
90.6%

M HRUTHIK
90%

NAMITHA G
90%

V VILVATHARINI
90%

ADMISSION OPEN - 2026-27

Classifieds

More value, more impact

ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಪಾಲಿಟೆಕ್ನಿಕ್

RAJENDRA POLYTECHNIC

Sunkadakatte, Hegganahalli cross,
Near PEENYA II Stage, Bangalore - 560091

for more info contact:
99166 46466

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(Working professional program) since 2023-24

Join govt approved 2 yrs diploma in
- Electrical & electronics engg.

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- Any PUC Science group with 2 yrs exp.

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since 1986

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- Computer science engg.
- Information science engg.
- Mechanical engg.
- Automobile engg.
- Electrical & electronics engg.
- Electronics & communication engg.
- Civil engg.
- Fashion design & technology
- Commercial practice

Eligibility:
- PUC/ITI/12th pass for 2 yrs Diploma
- SSLC/10th pass for 3 yrs Diploma

For Further Details Contact : PRINCIPAL / SECRETARY
R.E.S. POLYTECHNIC
Campus : # 5, Sunkadakatte, Hegganahalli Cross, Magadi Main Road,
Bangalore - 560 091. Ph : 080-23484814, 23289424

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95.6% PREETHAM AKSHAY RAJ B K

95% KAVYANSH AGRAWAL

93.6% SHREYA GOGI

91.8% SUMANTH SAMAPRIYA MAHADEV

94% SHUBHASHREE S

93% MOHAMMED MUSTAFFA

92% CHANDANA M

88% SHRADDA C

91% NAYANA S

90.6% NAMAN AMITKUMAR KUHIKAR

88.2% NEERAJA N RAJU

100% RESULTS ACHIEVED!

87.8% ATHARVA NANDAVARIK

87.2% M S PRAJWAL

85.6% PRARTHANA N

84% DUA AMAAN

83.6% PRINJAL P JAIN

82% DHRUPAD ANAND

81.2% TRISHA K V

87% GNANESH GOWDA V T

83% SAEED S

82% CHARITHA K N

80% RINKU N

79% DEEKSHITHA V B

78% ASHISH

75% LAKSHMI R

70% PAVAN GOWDA V H

Mylappanahalli, Near New RTO, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 89 84700 78633

Marohalli, T. Begur Post, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural - 23 63664 43671